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Ukraine, Iran, Turkmenistan Discuss Joint Projects

LD0904160895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, April 9 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Foreign Ministers of Ukraine, Hennadiy Udovenko, of Turkmenistan —Boris Shikhmuradov, and of Iran—'Ali Akbar Velayati are discussing in Tehran on Sunday possibilities for the implementation of some large joint projects.

Udovenko told journalists that under discussion is also the likely signing of a three-partite agreement on deliveries to Ukraine of Turkmen gas. It is planned that Ukraine will supply to Iran mineral fertilizers, while Iran will pay for part of Turkmen gas supplies to Ukraine.

Turkmen Foreign Minister Shikhmuradov told Interfax-Ukraine that under discussion is also possible participation of Ukrainian companies in implementation of the project for the construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Western Europe.

Shikhmuradov also said that he is discussing with Udovenko the possible participation of Ukrainian companies in the construction of two railways in Turkmenistan and the implementation of the project aimed at laying a railway around the Caspian Sea.

Ashgabat, according to the Minister, also intends to build a highway and a railway from Turkmenistan to southern Pakistan. He said three pipelines—gas, oil and reserve, are to pass along these mainlines. Shikhmuradov said that there are already companies to invest into these projects.

He spoke positively about the possible participation in these projects of Ukrainian companies, and added that they "will ensure a competitive technical level with minimal expenditures".

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Apr

LD1204072895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0448 GMT 12 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 12 April TASS—Today's Russian newspapers continue to concentrate on the Tajik-Afghan border situation. The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper does not preclude a chance that the present conflict means "a start of a new large-scale war".

The daily quotes an opinion by Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan. He believes that "the opposition will mount a large-scale offensive" this spring or summer.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper reports that over 600 mujahideen armed with firearms, grenade and missile launchers now operate in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region (Pamirs area) of the Tajik Republic. The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper supposes that the latest flare of fighting puts into jeopardy the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks.

In an interview with the Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Nikolay Bordyuzha, deputy commander of Russian border troops, commented on statements by some politicians and the media concerning expediency of using Russian servicemen in the conflict zone.

According to Bordyuzha, "this is prompted by the need for protecting Russia's national interests in this important geopolitical area".

The situation in Chechnya remains one of the main topics of the Russian press. The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper continues to publish documents from separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's archives. Today's issue describes the so-called lasso plan providing for bombardment of important state projects in Russia.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA prints the law on Federal Security Service approved by the Russian president. It is possible that "the intoxicating time of struggle against state security will recede into the past with its adoption", the newspaper comments.

The Federation of Russia's Independent Trade Unions (FITUR) stages an all-Russian protest action today. Its aim is to make authorities return 5,600 billion roubles in wage arrears, to prevent unprecedented unemployment which hit the ten million level now and to stop the industrial slump, notes the FITUR coordination committee for united actions in its address published by the RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper.

In an exclusive interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, Mikhail Nagaytsev, chairman of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions, said that most Russian regions demand a resignation of the government and an earlier election of the president.

IZVESTIYA dwells at lengths on recent statements by First Vice- Premier Anatoliy Chubays on an "unbelievable shift" in the Russian economy and on a possible end to price hikes by the mid-year.

Chairman of the Economic Freedom Party Konstantin Borovoy noted in an interview with the newspaper that one-percent inflation promised by Chubays will turn into 20-million unemployment by the end of the year.

Vice-president of the association of russian banks Vyacheslav Zakharov does not share either the government's optimism in his article published by IZVESTIYA. On the other hand, former Russian Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin who is now first deputy chairman of the Imperial Bank board, calls forecasts by Chubays in IZVESTIYA as quite realistic.

All russian newspapers devote materials to cosmonautics day marked this Wednesday. Vladimir Ivanov, commander of Russian military space forces, describes, in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, prospects for the development of the space industry in Russia.

According to his information, Russia has launched 2,662 booster rockets, put into orbit 3,000 satellites, or 64.6 per cent of all spacecraft launched in the world.

According to information published by the TRUD newspaper, Russia slashed by 80 per cent appropriations to the space industry. Production of space rocketry dropped by 90 per cent.

The Russian press devotes much space to preparations for the celebrations of the 50th V-Day. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA features an interview with Marshal Viktor Kulikov who will receive the victory parade in Red Square on May 9.

According to the marshal, 1,500 war veterans will participate in the parade. Their festive march-past "will embody the contribution of older generations to the defeat of fascism".

Russian Parliamentarian Says CIS Must Act in Tajikistan

LD1104161895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliament correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Commonwealth member-states must immediately react to the sharply aggravated situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament's interparliamentary group Aleksandr Dzasokhov told ITAR-TASS today.

In his opinion, "the Commonwealth states must immediately discuss measures to be taken in connection with the border situation." There are all grounds to hold an extraordinary meeting of Commonwealth foreign ministers with participation of heads of Commonwealth border services, added Dzasokhov.

It is necessary to analyze the efficiency of interaction between the Foreign Ministry, the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service and the Defence Ministry in the part of their measures taken in connection with the border situation. Dzasokhov believes that their actions must be better coordinated.

He stressed that Russia can no longer be satisfied with statements of the Afghan authorities saying Kabul does not control the situation in the Afghan northern areas. Russia has the right to count on efficient measures of the Kabul authorities taken to prevent the use of Afghan northern areas for dangerous destabilization of the Tajik-Afghan border situation.

Dzasokhov urged the soonest measures of the Russian parliament. He thinks that Duma leaders could meet the Afghan ambassador to Russia and discuss the border situation. A special delegation of the Federal Assembly could go to capitals of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan, and search for contacts with the Afghan authorities in order to gain their approval of a future Kabul visit.

In the opinion of Dzasokhov, these measures will make the Tajik opposition and the Kabul authorities to feel permanent presence of "the Russian factor" in the region.

'Text' of Almaty Declaration on CIS Collective Security

WS1104144395 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian
4 Apr 95 pp 1, 3

["Text" of resolution issued by the CIS Collective Security Council on the "Declaration of Member States of the Collective Security Treaty" and the "Declaration of Member States of the Collective Security Treaty" signed in Almaty on 10 February]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The Resolution by the Collective Security Council on the "Declaration of Member States of the Collective Security Treaty"

The Collective Security Council has resolved:

1. To approve the text of the Declaration of Member States of the Collective Security Treaty (attached).

2. To disseminate the text of the Declaration through the media of the member states.

Authorized in the city of Almaty on 10 February 1995, in one original copy in Russian. The original copy shall be preserved in the Archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which will provide every state having signed this resolution with a certified copy.

[Signed] For the Republic of Azerbaijan [blank space]; for the Republic of Armenia, L. TER-PETROSYAN; for the Republic of Belarus, A. LUKASHENKA; for the Republic of Georgia, E. SHEVARDNADZE; for the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. NAZARBAYEV; for the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, A. AKAYEV; for the Russian Federation, B. YELTSIN; for the Republic of Tajikistan, E. RAKHMANOV; for the Republic of Uzbekistan, I. KARIMOV.

The Declaration of Member States of the Collective Security Treaty

We, the heads of states of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Realizing our responsibility for ensuring security to member states of the Collective Security Treaty of 15 May 1992 (hereinafter referred to as the Treaty);

Considering the Treaty as an important contribution to the strengthening of a pan-European security as well as stability in the Asian region;

Acting in accordance with the UN Charter, the documents of the CSCE, and other international commitments by member states of the Treaty;

Also acting for the purpose of imparting a new stimulus to the development of mutual cooperation in the sphere of security protection, military development, and defense, have adopted this declaration on the following:

1. The member states proceed from the fact that, following the overcoming of confrontation, the widening of partnership and multilateral cooperation, the strengthening of trust in the military sphere, the reduction of nuclear and conventional weapons, favorable circumstances are being created to renounce the use of armed forces as a means for resolving international problems.

The Collective Security Treaty sets a footing for the creation of a new security structure intended to promote the further development of positive processes, both in mutual relations between the member states and on a wider scale in the international arena, as well as to effectively resolve new tasks in the sphere of security and cooperation.

2. The member states, manifesting their anxiety about the remaining instability in the world, the danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers, and unresolved conflicts, including the armed ones in the vicinity of their borders and on their territories, reiterate their adherence to the preservation of peace and the ensuring of collective security in accordance to the UN Charter, as well as their readiness to look for long-term resolutions to regulate crises and prevent new hotbeds of tension.

The member states confirm their obligations to abstain from using force or threatening to use it, as well as to resolve all disagreements both between themselves and with other states by exclusively peaceful means. No member state shall participate in actions directed against another member state. In case of need, a mechanism of mutual consultations will immediately be implemented.

3. The member states are assured that the coordination of their defense efforts will address the purpose of reducing military expenditures, taking into account the existing military infrastructure, uniformity of weapons and military equipment in armed forces, traditional ties between defense industries, as well as scientific research and military training basis.

4. Unifying their efforts in the sphere of collective security, the member states see the collective security system, which is being created by them, as a constituent part of a pan-European security system and a part of a possible security system in Asia.

5. The member states are ready to develop constructive relations of cooperation in the sphere of security with other states, which could include regional measures for strengthening stability.

6. The parties of the Treaty respect legal security interests of other states. The parties of the Treaty are assured that there exist real possibilities for further advancement along the path of expanding measures of trust for the purposes of strengthening the security of all European and Asian countries.

7. One of the most important directions in joint efforts by the member states of the Treaty is the fulfillment, within agreed-upon timeframes, of international obligations in the sphere of arms limitation and reduction, including assistance in strengthening the regime on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers, and the accomplishment of control over exports of weapons and "dual purpose" technologies.

The member states are ready to cooperate with each other in the military technical sphere, including the sphere of conversion of military production.

8. The member states consider the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program as a real alternative to the mechanical expansion of NATO. The member states believe that its practical implementation should be oriented toward the formation of a universal pan-European structure of military-political cooperation, which strengthens the CSCE foundation. The concrete form and content of such a partnership will be subject to discussion by the member states.

Main Items on Clinton-Yeltsin Summit Agenda Announced

LD1004122395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 10 TASS—Security and stability in Europe, prospects for the evolution of the structures in building a new Europe, strategic arms and coordination of efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear non-proliferation are the main items on the agenda of the forthcoming Moscow summit in which the Presidents of the United States and Russia will compare notes and chart further progress, according to spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Grigoriy Karasin.

The spokesman said another major item on the summit agenda will be preparations for the upcoming meeting of the leaders of the eight industrialised countries in Halifax.

The preliminary agenda for the Moscow summit, agreed upon at a recent meeting in Geneva between the Russian foreign minister and the U.S. Secretary of State, came under discussion again during First Deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott's visit to Russia from April 6-9.

Talbott was received by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev. He met State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and held consultations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Grigoriy Karasin said the exchange of views in Moscow was "useful". "We and Americans have an understanding that the main thing is now to ensure the success of the Moscow summit. It is towards this that we shall be working during the time remaining before their meeting," Karasin said.

Matlock's Plan for Clinton-Kovalev Meeting 'Strange'

LD1004120295 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to arrive in Moscow on 17 April to prepare the U.S. President's imminent visit. More and more questions are now arising as to the key in which the dialogue between Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin will take place. Nikolay Agayants is at the microphone.

[Agayants] The visit by the head of the U.S. foreign policy department to Moscow will not be one of the simplest or easiest. Christopher will have to clarify the agenda for the talks between the U.S. and Russian presidents and try to remove a number of thorny issues existing in the relations between Washington and Moscow. And those relations have alas now fallen on hard times. Naturally there are reasons for this. Following their national interests the parties take different views of events in the world.

In an interview with a correspondent of the NBC TV company, U.S. Vice President Albert Gore said that the sale of nuclear technology to Iran planned by Russia could have a negative effect on relations between the United States and Russia, that intensive talks between Washington and Moscow are continuing and that it would be wrong to resort to threats at this stage. Speaking about President Clinton's decision to attend ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascist Germany, Gore stressed that it was entirely in the interests of the United States and the whole world.

Nor did delegates at an international conference on Russia which, you will remember, was held last week in the University of Columbia deny the usefulness of the visit. However, it has to be said that the former U.S. ambassador to our country, Jack Matlock, put forward what, in my opinion, was a rather strange initiative. He proposed that Clinton should make a point of meeting Sergey Kovalev and other critics of the Chechen war in Moscow and that he should make it clear to the Russian leaders that—and I quote—a repetition of the methods used to crush Chechnya would lead to serious difficulties in the relations between Russia and the United States.

I am absolutely convinced that the former U.S. ambassador and now University of Columbia professor has committed a faux pas. He committed a small blunder inadmissible in an experienced diplomat because Matlock's recommendations smack of open interference in the internal affairs of another sovereign state.

Reports on Christopher's Trip to Moscow Not Confirmed

LD1004205895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1942 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Rogachev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS— A high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official said on Monday [10 April] he "had never heard" that the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher planned to visit Moscow next week. "I hear it for the first time," Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov told TASS.

He referred to some media reports claiming that Christopher intended to arrive in Moscow on April 17 to hold a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

However, a top official from the U.S. Administration who gave a news conference in Moscow last Friday did not even mention that such visit was possible. At the same time, he noted that Warren Christopher would meet his Russian counterpart in New York in late April to prepare for a Moscow meeting of the two countries' presidents timed to the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazism.

Foreign Ministry Comments on Talbott's Visit to Moscow

LD1104114595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1035 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—The consultations held by US Under-Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Moscow on April 6-9 dealt with "problems of security and stability in Europe, the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, including the coordination of actions during the conference on extension of the nonproliferation treaty in New York in April; strategic weapons and preparations for the summit of G7 and Russia in Halifax.

A Russian Foreign Ministry press release, passed to Interfax on Tuesday, says that Talbott is in Moscow to lay the ground for US President Bill Clinton's visit to Russia.

Clinton's visit to Russia is to last from May 9 to 11. He will attend celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Victory in World War II and hold a working meeting with President Yeltsin.

The press release also says that "Russia and the US share the understanding that the most important thing now is to ensure the success of the Moscow summit." "Moscow and Washington will work guided by this understanding during the time still to go before the visit," says the document.

Russia Seen in 'No-Win Situation' in Tajikistan

MM1104122595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin, Vitaliy Strugovets, and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "CIS Southern Borders Once Again Ablaze: Tajik Opposition Banking on Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today we can boldly say that out of all the options for the resolution of the inter-Tajik conflict the hard-line opposition has chosen the strong-arm scenario. This has been graphically confirmed by recent events on the Tajik-Afghan border.

A group of Russian border guards reinforced by a subunit of the peacekeeping battalion from Kazakhstan in the Khorog border detachment's zone of responsibility was on the march 7 April with a view to inspecting posts and the border regime. The commander of the 77th Afghan Border Brigade was informed well in advance of the Russian border guards' actions. However, the convoy came under massive fire from mortars and recoilless guns near the village of Pshikhar from the neighboring territory. The Russian and Kazakhstani servicemen were forced to enter into a battle lasting over five hours.

On the same day in the area of the Pyandzh Border Detachment's 12th Outpost border guards succeeded after a fight in detaining guerrillas from a Khakim group known as "Bangi," who were trying to get 36 kg of drugs across the border.

But all this was just the prelude to the main events which fell on the weekend. Over 50 gunmen from Dzhunaydullo's formation attacked the Khorog Border Detachment's reinforced Dashti-Yazgulem Border Post. The border guards rebuffed the first attack. Toward morning 9 April the oppositionists moved guns and mortars to this region and completely surrounded the border post. At dawn the gunmen opened fire with artillery and used it as cover to storm the post from several directions at once.

According to the command of the Group of Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan, by morning 10 April all the gunmen's attacks had been rebuffed at the cost of considerable losses to themselves. The Russian border guards also sustained casualties: five men killed and five wounded. In total in the period 7-10 April 26 border guards and members of the collective peacekeeping forces died and over 40 were wounded.

However, on the evening of 9 April a reinforced border guard group traveled from Khorog to Dashti-Yazgulem. The march to the appointed area involved fighting. Thus, near the village of Kolod gunmen from the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Movement [TIRM] organized an ambush on a mountain road. Furthermore, the road was blown up in several places and blocked.

We were told by the Russian FPS [Federal Border Service] news agency that, according to their information, Rezvon Sadirov, so- called commander in chief of the TIRM armed forces, personally gave the order for a dramatic increase in operations against Russian border guards in Gorno-Badakhshan. If there is dogged resistance from the border guards and if the detachments of Mukhabbatov's and Zaynuddin's gunmen are unable to create a bridgehead in the Vanch and Yazgulem sectors, opposition leaders are even planning to try to capture Khorog.

All this unequivocally indicates a carefully-planned operation designed to demonstrate and prove the strength and potential of the TIRM armed formations. One of the main objectives is plain to see, namely to dictate their terms bolstered by the military activity and possible success in combat during the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, which may nonetheless go ahead. The recent visit paid to Moscow by one of the TIRM's leaders, Khadzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, is also viewed in a different light today. Let us remind you that the opposition demanded that the border regime in Gorno-Badakhshan be relaxed as the main condition for starting talks.

Another problem, virtually the most important, can also be glimpsed behind all this, to wit the desire of certain circles to embroil Russia as deeply as possible in the inter-Tajik conflict. Figuratively speaking the die has been cast and this, paradoxically enough, creates a no-win situation for Russia. Should our servicemen leave Tajikistan, it will weaken Russian influence over the whole Central Asian region and the Russian Federation's southern borders will virtually be open, albeit for a short period. Should they stay, will Russia be economically and militarily able to "shoulder" a war in Tajikistan in addition to all its other problems? And if it can, will it then become "enemy number one" for the whole Islamic world? At any rate, it is clear from events in Tajikistan and Chechnya that some people are very keen on transforming local conflicts into long-term interethnic wars.

Latest Tajikistan Attacks Are 'Real War'

MM1104133395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Tajik Opposition Declares 'Jihad' on Russian Border Guards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting continued 10 April on the Pamir section of the Tajik-Afghan border, where border guards of a combined Russian-Kazakh battalion are serving along with Tajiks. In recent days losses among the border's defenders have totaled 26, including five citizens of Russia. Reserve groups are making their way through to assist them, but the mission is complicated by the fact that as long ago as 7 April the Yazgulem-Khorog road was blown up and mined in several places. A dense mist over the Pamirs prevents helicopters taking off.

What is happening now on the Khorog salient can in no way be dismissed as "just another guerrilla attack" or "opposition attempts to destabilize the situation." In terms of the nature of the combat operations which have been under way in Gorno-Badakhshan for five days, this is no longer an episodic clash but a real war.

According to reports from Russia's federal border troops service, the attack on the border guards' posts was undertaken by detachments of so-called irreconcilables under the leadership of field commander Dzho Naydullo [name as transliterated]. This is the same man who organized a raid on one of the posts at the beginning of January. At that time notes were found on the bodies of Russian border guards: "A New Year's gift for Yeltsin." This time there was shooting from at least three directions. The gunmen ensconced in the mountains around the Yazgulem Gorge hit the border guards in the back, and heavy artillery conducted aimed fire from Afghan territory across the Pyandzh River.

The situation is painfully reminiscent of the events of the summer of 1994 at the Moskovskiy Border Detachment's No. 12 Post, when 25 Russian soldiers died as the result of an attack by gunmen. The only difference is that this time Afghan mojahedin have openly entered the war.

The UN secretary general's special emissary—Ramiro Piris-Ballon—has flown urgently from Dushanbe to the Afghan city of Taloqan, where the staff of the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Movement is located. There he intends to meet with the head of the "government in exile"—Said Abdullo Nuri. President Emomali Rakhmonov of the Republic of Tajikistan has asked the United Nations and the world community for help. The Russian and Kazakhstani Foreign Ministries have issued statements containing resolute protests to Afghanistan over the provocation.

The start of the combat operations in Gorno-Badakhshan coincided with the arrival in Moscow of Akbar Turadzhanzoda [name as transliterated], who usually acts as the head of the opposition in talks. In his interviews he has said that he is "in control of the situation" and maintains control over the gunmen. But he has denied that he issued the order to carry out the action. According to General Chechulin, commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, however, both Turadzhanzoda and Nuri greatly exaggerate their potential and are themselves under the control of other, more influential forces.

At the same time we should bear in mind the events in Afghanistan, where relations between President Rabbani and other aspirants to supreme power have recently exacerbated sharply. It is reported that armed Talib detachments, having concluded an alliance with Hekmatyar after the abortive attempts to seize Kabul, have moved their troops north, closer to the border with Tajikistan.

The agreement on a cease-fire in Tajikistan, which was reached in Islamabad and came into force 20 October last year, has not in practice observed for a single day. If there were any lulls, they were put down to the weather. UN observers in Dushanbe recorded several violations and blamed the opposition.

Fuel has also been poured on the flames by the opposition leaders' refusal to approve the results of the recent parliamentary elections in Tajikistan. Nuri and Turandzhonzoda are insisting on the creation of some kind of state council, on which seats would be shared out equally.

The sides' positions have diverged still further, and specialists believe that different arguments have been put to work. By opening a front of armed struggle in Badakhshan, the opposition is reckoning on seizing territories in the Garm regions. According to intelligence data, Rezvon Sadirov, commander of the opposition troops, recently declared in Taloqan a "new jihad" against the Russian border guards and the collective peacekeeping force based on the 201st Motorized Rifle Division. Units of the 201st Division have been put on red alert but are not entering into combat operations.

Karasin Says Tajik Rebels' Reliance on Force 'Doomed'

LD1104173295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Suprun and Andrey Urban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Designs of the Tajik opposition to gain from armed struggle are short-sighted and doomed, a briefing was told here today by the Russian Foreign Ministry's senior spokesman Grigoriy Karasin.

The opposition's moves may impede or even wreck the fourth round of the Tajik talks scheduled to be held in mid-April in Moscow, Karasin said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry recently has issued two statements over the opposition's stepping up its aggressive drive on the Tajik-Afghan border, the spokesman reminded.

The statements protested against the blatant, provoking cross- border attacks of Afghanistan-based Tajik rebels on Russian border guards.

Aside from the protests addressed to central and local authorities of Afghanistan, the Foreign Ministry sent the statements to the U.N. secretary-general and U.N. Security Council chairman.

The Foreign Ministry called on Tajik opposition leaders to stop the provocations and settle down at the negotiating table for a constructive dialogue with the Tajik Government.

Russia as an observer state on its part is ready to help stop the Tajik bloodshedding conflict and put the negotiation on the track.

Chernomyrdin Welcomes Albania's Meksi

LD1004214595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Albanian counterpart Alexander Meksi will meet in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss a wide range of issues tied to economic and political cooperation.

Chernomyrdin said at the Sheremetyevo-2 airport as he welcomed his Albanian counterpart the talks were expected to end with the conclusion of an agreement to protect investments, prevent double taxation and promote cooperation in culture and science, as well as a consular agreement.

"We shall do everything to establish appropriate conditions to develop economic cooperation between individual enterprises and firms in either country", Chernomyrdin said.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin recalled that the negotiations in Moscow would be the first ones after a 36-year-old disruption of ties between Albania and the former USSR. Chernomyrdin said he hoped that his Albanian counterpart's visit to Moscow would resolve the main problems of bilateral cooperation and let Russia and Albania do business like all civilized countries.

Chernomyrdin and Meksi would initial a future treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Albania.

As he answered questions, the Albanian Prime Minister said that apart from economic and political cooperation between the two countries he was going to discuss the situation in the Balkans. "We must live in a peaceful Europe and Europe cannot be peaceful without peace in the Balkans," Prime Minister Meksi said.

Calls For Improved Ties

AU1104164795 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Telephone report by Aferdita Sokoli from Moscow]

[FBIS Translated Text] Official talks between the Albanian governmental delegation led by Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi and the Russian one led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin began at the White House, the seat of the Russian Government, this morning.

The Russian prime minister said that he was very pleased with the visit by his Albanian counterpart, as well as the upcoming participation of President Berisha in the 9 May celebrations in Moscow. According to him, it is necessary to raise the low level of bilateral exchanges. He proposed concrete fields of cooperation, such as the construction of an aqueduct in Albania, the reconstruction of mines, railways, air and naval transportation, and construction.

I would like to improve our relations, Chernomyrdin said. The Russian prime minister also briefed the visitors on the economic situation and the development of reforms in Russia, as well as the government's main goals to stabilize finances, restrict inflation, and resuscitate foreign investments.

Albanian Prime Minister Meksi stressed the commitment by the Albanian side to realize bilateral cooperation, citing a new era in interstate and human relations. Meksi stressed the need for the bilateral commission, which has existed before, to resume its work.

Talks also focused on the crisis in the Balkans, particularly in the former Yugoslavia.

Following their talks, Albanian Prime Minister Meksi and Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin signed an agreement on economic and trade cooperation, an agreement to encourage and protect investments, and an agreement to avoid double taxation. They also [word indistinct] a treaty of friendship by the secretary of state for foreign economic relations at the Albanian Foreign Ministry, Selim Belortaja, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov, as well as a consular convention and a trade agreement.

Prime Minister Meksi was then received by Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, who expressed his satisfaction that this visit is being made on the eve of a prominent day, such as 9 May. Mr. Rybkin assured Prime Minister Meksi that the Russian Parliament will support the signed agreements.

Mr. Meksi cited our parliamentary experience and briefly informed of the parliament's current activities. Talks also focused on government-parliament relations.

UN Reportedly 'Fires' Russian Commander in East Croatia

LD1104161195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, April 11 TASS—The U.N. on Tuesday fired Russian Maj. Gen. Aleksandr Perelyakin, commander of the U.N.-controlled "east" sector in Croatia, Michael Williams, spokesman for the U.N. Zagreb headquarters, told a news conference, adding that the decision takes effect as of noon today.

According to the spokesman, the Russian general had been dismissed due to "unsatisfactory military discipline and morale" in his sector, discovered by Zagreb inspectors.

A source in the U.N. Zagreb headquarters told TASS that the decision had been also prompted by Perelyakin's failure to follow orders from his U.N. authorities.

Williams said, that Russia's mission to the U.N. had been informed of the U.N. decision. Last October, the mission's representatives together with controllers from the Russian Defence Ministry inspected the situation in the "east" sector, and concluded it was satisfactory.

Foreign Ministry Seeks Restraint in Crimea

954F2051B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 1

["Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is following with concern and disquiet the growth of contradictions between Kiev and Simferopol. The Russian state has declared repeatedly that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine. At the same time, it has emphasized that the problems that exist in relations between the authorities of Ukraine and the Crimean autonomy must be resolved by way of political dialogue based on observance of the rules of international law and respect for the democratically expressed wishes of the population of the peninsula. Unfortunately, the development of events testifies to the reverse: Instead of restraint, there have been steps leading to an exacerbation of the situation.

Russia hopes that constructive dialogue between Kiev and Simferopol will resume and that it will result in solutions that contribute to a stabilization of the situation based on due consideration of the parties' interests being found.

The more active use of the corresponding instruments and mechanisms of the OSCE could contribute to this also.

Major Oil Companies Await Lifting of Embargo Against Iraq

LD0604105795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 6 Apr 95

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—As regards the production of oil in far-off foreign countries, the Lukoil associates its further prospects with North African countries and Iraq which afford large reserves of oil, Lukoil President Vagit Alekperov has told BUSINESS-TASS.

"When in Iraq we held tentative negotiations and presented concrete commercial proposals to the Iraqi side. We now hope to receive a reply from it and conclude contacts after the U.N. embargo on the export of oil from Iraq is lifted," Alekperov said.

"We now have every possibility to resume oil production operations which were conducted by Soviet oil-industry workers in Iraq at one time. Our equipment is available there. Surface facilities at the oil fields are fitted out with our technology, and projects have been designed by Russian specialists," the Lukoil president pointed out.

"At present, not only Lukoil but also foreign oil companies—Italian, British, American, and French ones—look for the lifting of the embargo on the export of oil from Iraq. They all worked there and want to resume their operations in that country," Alekperov said.

'Versions' Program Views Moscow's Policy Toward Iraq

LD1104174695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1840 GMT on 10 April carries the 15-minute recorded "Versions" program featuring interviews with LUKoil President Vagit Alekperov, Yuriy Shafranik, Russian minister of fuel and power engineering, and Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign affairs minister. The program focuses on Russian support for the lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq.

LUKoil President Alekperov says that the former Soviet Union developed two major Iraqi oil deposits. He explains: "Up to 5,000 Russian and Soviet oil workers worked there at that time. Our equipment is now in operation there. The deposits are equipped according to our designs. Of course we want to return to those regions; we have never concealed that desire from anyone."

During an interview with Shafranik, the Russian minister says: "We believe that Iraq is a mighty oil power, or is potentially so. It has a strong influence on world prices. Second, we had projects there, and we cannot just abandon them. Relevant agreements have now been prepared. Delegations have been here, and our groups are working there. We are counting on major projects."

Shafranik adds that he is working in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have the sanctions against Iraq lifted. He says: "We must all help to lift the sanctions together. We are taking measures of this type and are working with international oil and other companies that are interested in one way or another in having the sanctions lifted. So it is a joint matter. Of course, the juridical preparation is the business of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

During an interview with Posuvalyuk, the Deputy foreign minister says: "We advocate the principle that the UN Security Council should react appropriately to the positive shifts in Iraq's behavior, not only regarding their implementation of virtually all the disarmament articles of Resolution No. 687, with a few individual exceptions, but also regarding the major step taken by the Iraqi Government in recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and international border."

He adds: "We oppose the advocation and practical implementation of the principle of all or nothing. When those shifts in the Iraqi line became apparent, a light appeared at the end of the tunnel. Now someone wants to lengthen the tunnel so that the light again becomes invisible, condemning Iraq to perpetual torment.

"We are not in complete accord with the United States over the topic of Iraq, nor perhaps with Great Britain. As for other Western countries, I would say they are watching our position closely and even approve of it, recognizing its humane essence. This position enjoys support in the Third World; I say this with complete confidence. The latest visit by our minister to the Arabic East showed that this line is supported there."

Posuvalyuk continues: "Our position has a just and humane basis, and this increases our confidence in implementing it. This is all the more so because it is strengthened by Russia's material and pragmatic interests for the future."

He adds: "We have advantages. We were the first in Iraq to develop major deposits fully. We effectively created a Russian oil industry in Iraq. We have major enterprises, central directorates—or corporations if you like—which dealt entirely with Iraq. We have the relative cheapness of our supplies and specialists, compared with the extremely highly paid experts in the Western oil sphere. We have our proximity to Iraq. There is also perhaps the political factor. I am sure that the Iraqi Government's relations toward Russia will be favorable, if not preferential, if we succeed in sustaining this line."

Regarding Iraq's debt to Russia, which stands at $6-7 billion, Posuvalyuk says that Iraq will start to pay this off once the sanctions are lifted. He says: "I can assure you that we and the Iraqi Government are already at a stage of real agreements, which really enable us to count on the fact that Iraq will begin to pay off its debts as soon as the sanctions are lifted." He adds: "I think that, first and foremost, this will be in oil supplies, and that is why we are now really working to ensure Russia's access to Iraq in the post-sanction period, specifically in the energy and oil extraction and refining spheres."

Posuvalyuk continues: "Over the last couple of years in particular, we have had fruitful contacts on the subject of oil, and we have concluded protocols with mutual obligations amounting to $10 billion. So we have already planned a program. Now we are already agreeing on specific spheres."

Posuvalyuk says that he expects the Iraqi leadership to come up with proposals in the oil and energy sphere, including proposals on the repayment of Iraq's debt to Russia, and that Russia has specific assurances from the Iraqi Government in this regard.

Report Views Russia-Iran Nuclear Power Station Accord

LD0604230395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Video report by S. Brilev, identified by caption; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia intends to earn around $1 billion from nuclear power station building contracts in Iran. And now a bit more about economics. Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the union of industrialists and enterpreneurs, who recently returned from a working visit to Tehran, said that an agreement has been reached on the assembly of Il-114 aircraft in Iran from Russian-made parts. Finally, the sale to Iran of Russian diesel submarines also promises to provide our country with quite large profits.

Now on the subject of politics: "Vesti" has in its possession a stenographic record (MN: the video shows pages of a USIA release) of the news conference given by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry in Moscow to journalists from his own country. He said that Iran could limit itself to the production of electricity at thermal power stations since it has an abundance of oil reserves. According to Washington, Tehran intends to produce nuclear weapons at these nuclear power stations. The Americans do not believe in the counter-argument from Moscow and Tehran that the contract does not infringe upon the obligations of the signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Incidently, the Argentinians were recently accused of secretly participating in Iran's nuclear program. The end of the row in Buenos Aires coincided with the signing of a U.S.- Argentinian agreement on nuclear cooperation. It was stated the other day in Washington that a similar agreement with Russia will depend on breaking the contract with the Iranians. Will the principle of who gives more money operate in this case? [Video shows an internal view of a nuclear power station control room and an operations hall; a close-up of an aircraft engine being assembled; foreign footage of submarines]

Mityukov in Washington Cited on Nuclear Deal With Iran

LD0804125195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kikilo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington April 8 TASS—The United States is trying to pressure Russia to drop its nuclear cooperation with Iran, First Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Duma Mikhail Mityukov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Friday.

Mityukov is on a visit here with a parliamentary delegation.

The Americans are sensitive to Russia's military and technological cooperation with Iran in the nuclear energy area, Mityukov said, commenting on the delegation's meetings in congress, the State Department and Pentagon.

However, Russia has serious reasons to expand such contacts, Mityukov said.

He cited as the reasons Russia's economic hardships, primarily in the defence sector, whose many enterprises are owed wages for months. It is therefore important to book orders for the defence industry, the parliamentarian continued.

The geopolitical aspect is no less important—if Iran, a far-fetched country from the United States, causes inconveniences for it, why should Russia face similar problems with Iran, its neighbour, Mityukov continued.

The third consideration is the need for an agreement on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, with five littoral states having emerged instead of the former two. Russia's stance on the matter is closer to Iran's than to positions of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Mityukov said Russia understands the American concern about Iran looming as another nuclear power.

"But we cooperate in the area which does not offer any possibilities to manufacture nuclear weapons," Mityukov said, adding that the summary of the international agency for nuclear energy defines Russian reactors exported to iran as unfit for that purpose. The United States does not deny that, too.

Mityukov did not rule out that the United States pursues self-interest in the dispute around Iran.

He said American businesses are probing for some indirect ways to establish economic contacts with Iran, acting through their oil subsidiaries.

It is not unlikely that the Iran policies of the United States shift at some point, although at present political and ideological controversy between Washington and Tehran is obvious, the parliament deputy chairman said.

High-Ranking Border Guard Killed on Chinese Border

LD1204080195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0651 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS corredspondent Vladimir Konoplitskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok April 12 TASS—A high-ranking Russian border guard was killed Wednesday in a clash with transgressors on the border with China in the Far East, TASS learned from the commander of the Pacific border district, Lieutenant General Vitaliy Sedykh.

He said a group of transgressors rendered armed resistance to border guards and the head of the local border post was killed.

Sedykh did not identify the killed border guard and did not specify the nationality of the transgressors. He said only they had been arrested. No other details have been available so far.

Ministry Spokesman Denies Russian Involvement in Tokyo Gas Attack

OW1104164095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1511 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 KYODO—A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman complained Tuesday [11 April] that some Japanese mass media are claiming some form of Russian involvement in the March 20 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system and the subsequent shooting of Japan's police chief.

Grigory Karasin, head of the ministry's Information and Press Department, told reporters there have been strange attempts to find a "Russian trace" in the incident and make the Russian neighbor "the root of malice" in everything that has happened in Japan, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The Russian side swiftly responded to the request of Japanese law enforcement bodies, welcomed representatives of the Japanese police department and offered them information related to the activities of the religious sect Aum Shinrikyo, he said.

Arguments about the Russian involvement in the Tokyo incidents do not sound serious, "to put it mildly," he said.

Yeltsin Orders Investigation of Japanese Sect's Activities

LD1204072195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0645 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin ordered to thoroughly investigate the activities of the Japanese religious Aum Shinrikyo sect in Russia, his press service told TASS Wednesday adding that the president had also ordered to cooperate with Japanese investigators for the purpose.

Russian and Japanese mass media said that Oleg Lobov, chairman of the powerful Russian Security Council, was among top Russian officials who had maintained the closest contacts with the sect's leader Shoko Asahara and helped him gain ground in Russia.

The president instructed the office of the prosecutor general, the Federal Security Service (the inheritor to the former KGB) and the commission for religious organisations at the Russian Government "to check all circumstances of the activities of the Aum Shinrikyo organisation on the Russian territory", the press service said.

Officials Comment on Supplying Nuclear Reactor to DPRK

LD0604221395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1951 GMT 6 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Kirillov and Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—The United States declined North Korea's suggestion that Russia supply it a Russian-made light-water reactor through the mediation of South Korea, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry's information.

This deal would be struck to repay a portion of Russia's debt to South Korea, totalling some 1.5 bln dollars, according to North Korea's suggestion made during the recent U.S.-North Korean talks in Berlin. Seoul, which announced its readiness to provide the bulk of funds for re-orienting the North Korean nuclear programme, would grant the reactor to North Korea as its own property.

"For all we know, such a suggestion was made, but it was rejected by the U.S. At present, other options are being considered", a high-ranking official at the Russian Foreign Ministry told TASS on Thursday.

The North Korean ambassador to Moscow, Song Sungpil, told TASS on Tuesday that his country's government was pressing for construction of at least one light-water nuclear reactor according to the Russian design. He emphasised that this intention was prompted by the previous experience of cooperation between Russian and North Korean nuclear engineers.

In his turn, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov reiterated Moscow's commitment to the idea of reactor supplies to North Korea. The diplomat recalled that Russia had been invited to join the international Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO), which is dominated by the United States. "We have not joined so far, because we do not understand what we are going to do there", Panov said.

Under an agreement between the United States and North Korea, the latter is to be furnished with light-water nuclear reactors to replace the existing ones, which are capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium.

U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Cristine Shelly said earlier this week that the United States would like Russia to join the project. However, she noted that it was still early to define specific forms of Russia's participation.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Returns to Sochi After Nalchik Visit

LD1204102995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Schegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi April 12 TASS—Russia's President Boris Yeltsin returned to Sochi on the Black Sea from the Kabardino-Balkarian capital Nalchik on Wednesday to continue his vacation there until next week, well informed sources told ITAR-TASS.

However, the president intends to combine rest with work, as he did in the previous days. He is expected to hold a series of consultations with high-ranking executive officials, among them those from the north Caucasian region.

Rutskoy Says Authorities Will Try To 'Derail' Elections

LD0604185795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 6 (Interfax)—Former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy says the authorities will do everything they can to derail this year's general elections and the 1996 presidential poll. He was speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Thursday.

Even if the two polls are held, voting results will be rigged in a way that no one will be able to prove they are wrong, he said.

Rutskoy leads the country's socialist-patriotic movement calling itself Derzhava (Statehood).

One other Derzhava leader Viktor Kobelev said the movement was likely to win from 28% to 30% of seats in this year's general election while Rutskoy may become Russia's new president after a run off next year.

Claims Moscow Preparing Referendum on Postponement

LD0604195295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 6 (Interfax)—Former Russian vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy has confirmed his earlier claim that he has evidence of the Kremlin preparing a referendum on the postponement of parliamentary and presidential elections.

At a Thursday news conference in Moscow he did not answer directly to the question on whether he has documented proof of the allegedly planned referendum, but insisted that the presidential team has made a detailed plan under which a certain document concerning the referendum is to be issued on April 25.

According to Rutskoy, the document suggests extending the presidential term by four years because of the difficult social, economic and political situation in the country.

President's Aide Rejects Rutskoy Election Allegations

MM0704141195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 2

[Statement by Russian Federation president's aide Mikhail Krasnov: "Political Posturing Uncharacteristic of Him"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our society will unfortunately have to get used to the politically and morally improper measures taken by opponents in election campaigns. A. Rutskoy's statement that, according to information in his possession, "at the heart of the presidential staff" a draft edict is being prepared on a referendum, the purpose of which is to vote for an extension of the Russian Federation president's powers for a further term, is in keeping with the logic of the race for the position of head of the Russian state. So there is nothing in particular to comment on here.

As we know, senior officials from the presidential staff have refuted this statement. **But the reader has the right to pose the question: Even if such a draft is not being produced, surely they could begin to prepare one later on?**

I can say the following in reply.

In accordance with the current Russian Constitution, the Russian Federation president can call a referendum. Incidentally, the relevant article, No. 84, says: according to the procedure prescribed by the federal constitutional law—which has not yet been adopted. But even this is not the point. The main point is that the powers of any official or state body, unlike a citizen's rights, cannot be invoked as and when desired.

Even the will of the people, that is, the source of state power in Russia, can only be canvassed when the people are asked to state their opinions on questions which do not violate the Constitution. A referendum on extending the term of office of any of the branches of federal power is not provided for within the Russian Federation Constitution.

The Constitution's final [zaklyuchitelnyye] and interim [perekhodnyye] provisions state directly that both chambers of the first Federal Assembly are elected for two years. As far as the Russian Federation president is concerned, he exercises the powers prescribed by the Constitution from the day it comes into force until the term for which he was elected expires.

It is, of course, not ruled out that a constitutional impasse might arise. For example, if laws on the procedures for elections to the presidency and State Duma and for the formation of the Federation Council are not adopted by December 1995. Such a development is clearly undesirable for the future of the new Russian statehood.

But even in this case legal means for getting out of the impasse are possible. I think that then, for example, we will have to rely on the joint opinion of the president and Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

I would like to say something about the moral and political aspect of the question. Rutskoy in effect cast a suspicion of petty political posturing on the president. But however he regards B.N. Yeltsin and whatever complaints might be made against him, Yeltsin has frequently shown himself to be a strong, open, and steadfast person. And the measures which are being attributed to the president are simply uncharacteristic of him....

Elections exist so that the people can see themselves as they are—naive dreamers or responsible realists—reflected in a mirror. To take this mirror away from the people would mean to turn them into a population. And you don't have to reckon with a population. After all, this is a purely statistical category.

Commentary Doubts Presidential Election Delay Denials

MK0604113795 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Titus Sovetologov [nom de plume of NG editor-in-chief] under the "Misanthropy" rubric: "And What Will the ORT Say? The Righteous Anger of Presidential Advisers Refused Permission To Travel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A tsunami of refutations that has risen in response to charges that the Kremlin is making preparations to delay elections or even to hold a referendum to in effect make Boris Yeltsin president-for-life are, naturally, the best proof of the fact that the arrow has hit the mark (or—which is the same thing—hit where it hurts). Absurd ideas would not be rebutted so hotly.

All members of the presidential entourage were urgently raised on alert (sometimes literally so, for Georgiy Satarov was raised from his hospital bed). But one should not forget that the Kremlin democrats who expressed their personal views were left in Moscow, while other members of Yeltsin's entourage, who are closer to his person, are staying together with the president (presently in Sochi; before that, on the rushing Terek River). And there has been no refutation heard either from the North Caucasus health resort or from Sochi beaches. People who know better keep mum!

I think that till 9 May (so as not to startle capricious overseas presidents), the reaction will be more or less the same: some would say—what, are you crazy, how can you cast such aspersions on the greatest democrat of all people and all times?! Others would modestly stay silent.

But we see that the Russian Public Television [ORT] will start broadcasting after 9 May. Precisely by that time Mr. Blagovolin's Analytical Center could draw up an entire paradigm of arguments in favor of "no change for the sake of stability." Then Balaam's ass would open its mouth and we will hear the word of God's grace.

Chubays Seen as 'Last Hope for Reform'

954F2041A St. Petersburg SMENA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Dmitriy Travin: "Chubays—the Last Hope for Reform"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Looking at Anatoliy Chubays, it is unlikely that anyone will say that the first deputy prime minister of the government is a person who is marked by fate. But if you follow his career during the last several years, then you involuntarily feel like making the sign of the cross.**

The Terrible Person from Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for Management of State Property]

Back in the period of the 1980's-1990's, a modest docent of the Engineering-Economic Institute took part in a competition for the post of director of a leading research center in Leningrad—the Institute of Social and Economic Problems. The collective at that time "passed over" the young "Varangian" in favor of its own native authorities. Since that time, Chubays has not returned to science; he went into the administrative line, and he and rose to heights that were inconceivable in those years. Whereas the institute fell into decay, it lost the building in which it operated, and it actually disappeared from the world of science.

When Chubays was the first deputy chairman of the Lengorispolkom [Leningrad City Executive Committee], a dispute arose with Chief of Finance Medvedev. Before long, Anatoliy Sobchak became the mayor, and Medvedev wrote him a denunciation on his opponent. Since that time, Medvedev has not served in organs of the city administration, and finances are being administered by Aleksey Kudrin, a friend of Chubays and a like-minded person.

When Chubays developed voucher privatization, many responsible persons did not like the approach toward state property of the chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property. In the summer of 1993 Oleg Lobov, then first deputy prime minister and minister of economics, sent a note to Boris Yeltsin, his old friend, about how property should be treated and, accordingly, about who was improperly dealing with it. The president was already about to write a favorable resolution on the note, when something happened suddenly, and Lobov stopped being the first deputy prime minister and minister, and Yegor Gaydar, Chubays' friend and like-thinker, came to the vacated position.

But some senior officials decided that it was necessary to make short work of Chubays with more radical methods. Aleksandr Rutskoy found a full 11 suitcases of compromising materials, and Procurator General Valentin Stepankov was already preparing to transfer Chubays from the government to Lefortovo. But here the president suddenly decided to destroy the opposition, and Rutskoy ended up in Lefortovo. Stepankov disappeared from the political horizon, and it is possible to find his present residence only with the help of an investigative team, which still has not rummaged through the mythical suitcases.

There was also some small fry like ex-Deputy Mikhail Chelnokov, who distinguished himself in the national game under the title "Who will throw more vouchers into the face of the deputy prime minister?" In October 1993 Chelnokov had to succeed not only in throwing, but also in short-distance races. I do not know whether Chubays laughed while looking at how Chelnokov was running with raised arms from the White House, while looking with an unfavorable eye at the threatening fellows from the Alpha group; however, truly, this did not look tragic, but rather amusing.

Perhaps the only one who succeeded in the fight against Chubays-style privatization was Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov. He was even able to beat out a special presidential edict concerning the special nature of privatization in the capital. But after this, Luzhkov's relations with the president' security service did not go well. One after another of his intimates fell from their positions: the managers of the Moscow FSK [Foreign Counterintelligence Service], the GUVD [Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs], and the Procuracy. The roller rode over Most-Bank, which was close to Luzhkov. But how the name of the mayor will be splashed about in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA! It is not surprising that he has already hinted at his own possible retirement.

But some promoted workers from the provinces still cannot at all understand Chubays' fateful character. For example, Vladimir Polevanov tried to revise the entire legacy of his predecessor in the post of chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property, and the president soon after said that Polevanov was dull-witted and that he did not understand orders. Sergey Belyayev, a friend of Chubays and a like-thinker, is now working in Polevanov's place, and Anatoliy Borisovich himself became first deputy prime minister and the fourth most influential person in the country, not counting the president (these are the assessments of "Itogi" experts).

Today Chubays associates directly with the president, which under specific Russian conditions is not that easy. Today he sits at his right hand at expanded government meetings. Today the West associates the last hopes for intensifying Russian reforms with the name of Chubays.

Perhaps the fated destiny of all of those who stood in Chubays' path was simply an accident. But perhaps we will still have occasion some day to learn a lot that is interesting about the former modest Leningrad docent before whom all of the doors to power open sooner or later.

Intrigue Is the Engine of Progress

Chubays is the only one from Gaydar's team, which came to the government in the fall of 1991, who is still at the helm. Gaydar Shokhin, Glazyev, and Fedorov who joined it later, resigned. Aven, Nechayev, Mashits, Kagalovskiy, and Golovkov were replaced in their posts by other people. True, there is still Minister of Science Saltykov, but his role in the government is approximately the same as the role of science in our society today.

Chubays not only survived, but he grew and was able to place his own people in a number of posts. Minister of Economics Yevgeniy Yasin and his deputies Yakov Urinsok, Sergey Vasilyev, and Sergey Ignatyev; Chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property Sergey Belyayev and his deputies Petr Mostovoy and Alfred Kokh; Deputy Chairman of the Federal Securities Commission (that is, deputy to Chubays himself) Dmitriy Vasilyev, and some other people in the government can fully consider themselves on Chubays' team. Those who display disloyalty to the first deputy prime minister are fired (for example, Polevanov). Those who catch the direction of the wind become loyal (for example Minister of Finance Vladimir Panskov).

What is most amazing is not even that Chubays survived, and not that he brought in his own people. He survived and elevated himself in a manner that is absolutely improbable for the Russian apparatus struggle. He never renounced the reform policy and the policy of macroeconomic stabilization (even when this was very advantageous), and he never betrayed Gaydar (as was done, for example, by Shokhin and Kozyrev). Chubays remains a symbol of reform in the government at any time.

It is unquestionable that to some degree he is helped by the need for such a symbol that both the president and the prime minister are experiencing. It is necessary to get credit in the West. Where is Chubays? In front on a fast horse: It is necessary to tell the people we are once again decisively breaking with the lack of ideals, deviationism, and opportunism, and we are once again setting a course toward the bright peaks of monetarism. Where is Chubays? Once again, in front on a fast horse.

We must look "soberly" at the needs of our industry, agriculture, regions, and CIS friends, and give them a little more money. Where is Chubays? Behind, under cover. After the period of complete chaos passed, after the innocent parties were punished and the nonparticipants were rewarded, Chubays once again appears out front and becomes a bright symbol.

An attempt was made to play this kind of game with Gaydar and Fedorov. Both broke with it in an argument and left. Chubays remained and even got involved, from time to time breaking the bank and sending luckless croupiers like Lobov, Polevanov, etc., throughout the world.

Also unusual for the Russian Olympus was the fact that Chubays is not resting on his laurels, but is continuing to work, using practically every opportunity at least for a small movement of reform forward. Until now, practically all statesmen who have been called on to conduct reforms in contemporary Russia and in the former USSR either retired soon after, or found a mass of convincing explanations as to why they did not do anything, and how they would have been able to do everything well had they remained in office just a little longer. Chubays was the only one who took the third path. He finds the opportunity to do something even in the most, it would seem, hopeless situations.

It is unlikely that someone could have expected at the height of the Chechen war, when the democrats seriously feared provocations leading to the establishment of a harsh totalitarian regime, that soon after it would be possible to abolish a whole series of customs privileges, to eliminate the institution of special exporters, and to implement liberalization of oil exports. These achievements should not be overestimated, but it should be recognized that Chubays got all that was possible from the given situation. Exactly as in last year and the year before that, he extracted everything that was possible from voucher privatization. No one in that situation could have given Russia a responsible owner and large investments. But it was possible to change the structure of property itself, and Chubays did this.

If any kinds of hopes remain today for the success of the economic reorganizations in Russia, they can be associated only with one person. The future of the country depends on how adroitly Chubays conducts intrigue, how successfully he will begin to haggle with the president for a signature on edicts, and how cleverly he will be able to bump heads with his rivals.

In the meantime, Chubays is confident of himself. The latest and almost unnoticed achievement of his is the post of deputy general director and director of information programs of Public Russian Television, which was passed to the former press secretary of the first deputy prime minister. It appears that now Chubays will be able to control not only a substantial part of the government apparatus, but also the powerful propaganda potential of Ostankino.

United Industrial Party of Russia Established

LD0504191695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1646 GMT 5 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—One more political party called the United Industrial Party of Russia, has been established at the period preceding the elections in the Russian Federation.

The new organization which was announced at a news conference today, includes representatives of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the League of Defense Enterprises, a number of trade unions, business people and bankers from 47 regions.

Among the initiators of the formation of the United Industrial Party are Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Alexey Shulunov, head of the League of Defense Enterprises, Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, and Artur Chilingarov, deputy speaker of the Russian State Duma. A constituent congress of the party is scheduled for April 18 at the hall of columns of the house of unions in Moscow.

The new party, as its organizers see it, must represent the interests of "those who are engaged in production", Anatoliy Dolgolaptev pointed out. The economic principles of the United Industrial Party are based on state regulation of the transition to a market economy, backing a national producer and the stimulation of the industrial development.

The United Industrial Party claims to represent a political center and sees the Agrarian Party and different business structures among the party's most probable allies. The issue on what bloc the new party will form at parliamentary elections, will be discussed at the congress.

Arkadiy Volskiy also dwelled on cooperation with the majority party having a somewhat dubious reputation. He formed a bloc with the majority party several months ago. Arkadiy Volskiy noted that he "does not quite agree with the methods" of "bolsheviks" but appraises their organizational abilities which may be used "for the benefit of the people".

As for the prospects for the establishment of a bloc with the participation of the Communist Party, he said "nobody has invited us to do this. This issue will be considered at the congress. If the broad left-wing bloc with the participation of communists, agrarians, trade unions and other forces is formed, "there will be no need to hold elections"—its victory will be guaranteed, Arkadiy Volskiy believes.

Participants in the news conference stated that the purpose of the establishment of the new party was naturally to win power, and in some form "industrialists" will take part in all elections. However, today representatives of regions are mostly worried about local elections.

According to deputy chairman of the Federation Council Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, the United Industrial Party "is not a party nestling within the garden ring (the Moscow center) but a nationwide organization".

Communist Parties Unite in Election Bloc

LD0504185595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 5 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Cherepanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] St. Petersburg April 5 TASS—Four small Russian communist parties agreed

Wednesday [5 April] to unite in a single election bloc called "Communists - Working Russia".

Viktor Tyulkin, the leader of the Russian Communist Workers' Party told TASS that, besides his party, the bloc unites the All- Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks headed by Nina Andreyeva, the Russian Party of Communists of Anatoliy Kryuchkov and the "Union of Communists" of Aleksey Pregarin.

The new bloc views the major communist party of Gennadiy Zyuganov, which has an influential faction in the State Duma, as "opportunistic" and Tyulkin said the bloc will fight "the two most dangerous adversaries" - "the anti-popular ruling regime and the opportunists inside the communist movement".

He added that the name of the bloc may change as elections approach.

FSK To Have Access to Russia's New Automated Voting System

LD0604204795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 6 April, on the "Vesti" newscast, carries a report by an unidentified correspondent on a news conference given by Nikolay Ryabov.

The correspondent says: "Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, presented the state automated system 'Vybory' [elections] at a news conference today. The plan is to try it out under working conditions as early as this December, at the elections to the Federal Assembly." The report says the voters will also complete their ballots and put them in the ballot box in the traditional way. The purpose of the computer network, which will link 95,000 polling stations, is to improve the registration system and to speed up the counting of the votes, as well as to enable observers and the press to keep abreast of all developments and to spot accidental or deliberate mistakes made by electoral commissions, the report said.

The correspondent added: "Asked if the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] or the Interior Ministry will use this unique store of information on the population of Russia, Ryabov replied that information could be provided if required by the Russian Federation."

New Law Grants FSB Powers Broader Than Former KGB

MK0704120795 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "State Security Is on Horseback Again"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A special service far more powerful than the now defunct KGB has been created under the law "On Bodies of the Federal Security Service in the Russian Federation," signed by the president a few days ago.

For instance, as of now, state security bodies can use the cover of any ministries or organizations to ensure covert operation by individual Federal Security Service [FSB] officers or whole subdivisions. The law grants state security services the right to train (including on a "compensation basis") cadres for the special services of foreign states and for the security services of enterprises and establishments—regardless of their ownership status.

Some new duties—extremely pleasant for state security officers—have also appeared. For example, to gather intelligence information and to "detect," on Russian Federation territory, signals from radioelectronic transmitters. Thus, the FSB has taken on some of the functions of the Foreign Intelligence Service [SVR] and the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency. They say that it was at the last moment that the SVR managed to exclude from the new law a provision whereby intelligence would be the main line of FSB activity. If this stipulation had been retained, the SVR would have been relegated to a secondary role.

Furthermore, state security officers have substantially expanded their social benefits. [passage omitted]

Even people working for the FSB but who are not on staff have been given the right to conclude a contract with state security bodies, drawing compensation as provided for under the contract.

To cap it all, the FSB has become a structure in effect beyond any control. Oversight of its activity will in theory be exercised by the general prosecutor and prosecutors authorized by him. However, information about persons rendering assistance to security bodies "or about organizations, tactics, methods, and means of activity by FSB bodies are not subject to oversight by a prosecutor."

Duties of Federal Security Service Detailed

LD0804153195 Moscow NTV in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The focus is also on another bill, which has already been signed by the president but which has not yet come into force, as it is still to be published. This is the law on the Federal Security Service [FSB] of Russia. Our attempts to investigate its advantages and disadvantages have been somewhat successful. We only learned about the advantages.

It appears that everyone involved in the law's adoption has been satisfied to a certain degree. Neither Viktor Ilyukhin, the chairman of the State Duma Security Committee, nor Yuriy Baturin, the president's aide on national security, had anything negative to say about it. It appears, however, that neither of the two seems completely satisfied. Baturin said that the law is a result of a lengthy process of coordination and is a vivid example of a compromise. [passage omitted]

Thanks to this compromise, the FSB now has at its disposal—and we can say, taking into account the numerous changes of its name, has gotten back at its disposal—the investigation apparatus with some 1,000 personnel, detention centers—14 jails all across Russia—special armed detachments, and the right to conduct intelligence operations on territories of foreign countries. At home its staff can enter unhindered any premises, only on the suspicion that there may be criminals inside, they can also use false documents and work with informants [sekretnye sotrudniki]. Viktor Ilyukhin justified such expansion of the powers of the counterintelligence service, describing it as an essential necessity.

[Begin Ilyukhin recording] Many believe that Russia is so friendly with everyone today and all states are also so friendly with Russia, that allegedly there is no need to have strong and efficient security bodies or special services. This is not so, however. I can cite a dozen examples of special services and intelligence services of foreign countries stepping up their activities nowadays all over the Russian border and inside Russia. One can say that in the last two or three years the number of spies and traitors brought to book has increased several times in comparison with the preceding five to seven years. Over and above the traditional confrontation with traditional special services—with our adversaries so to say—there is a new one, with the special services of the former union republics. Sad as it is, special services of Ukraine, as well as those of Armenia or Azerbaijan are working against Russia or inside Russia today. Criminal cases have been recently instigated against a group of ethnic Armenians who have come to Russia with a definite intelligence objective and with the aim of recruiting our citizens for the Karabakh war. The investigation is underway. [end recording]

Oddly enough, the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] has already been using for a while all the rights granted to the FSB by the new law. This use by the FSK was based on decrees and instructions rather than on a law. The president's aide on National Security has also confirmed it, albeit indirectly.

[Begin Baturin recording] The problem is very simple: whether the field of operation becomes wider or more narrow with the change of name of this service. One should be constantly proving—as it has been proved in numerous doctoral theses—that the name of the service does not correspond to its activity. [end recording]

One should say that both Viktor Ilyukhin and Yuriy Baturin stressed in their interviews the fact that the FSB is not even close in its potential to the notorious KGB of the USSR.

[Begin Baturin recording] This service, the FSB, will resemble most of all the Federal Counterintelligence Service, but by no means the KGB. [end recording]

[Begin Ilyukhin recording] There are many new provisions in this law. But this does not mean that, as some allege in the press, we are resurrecting the KGB of the USSR. [end recording]

Viktor Ilyukhin even says that the adopted law will prevent the special services from turning into one big monstrosity.

[Begin Ilyukhin recording] I can say that the KGB will not materialize because this law has now allocated a place to every special service. We have noted and promulgated the functions of the Federal Security Service; this is a framework for the activity of this body. The activities of foreign intelligence are defined by another act of law, and so is the activity of the main protection administration and the security service. So, rather than bringing them all under one umbrella, it puts every special service in a place of its own. [end recording]

One can see rare unanimity shown by representatives by both branches of power who defended this new law from attacks by suspicious journalists.

Military & Space Issues

State Duma Extends Length of Military Service

LD0704134995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian State Duma, or the lower house of parliament, on Friday passed a draft law, by 245 to 29 votes with 19 abstensions, which extends the length of military service from one-and-a-half to two years, and sanctions higher school students to serve one year after graduation.

Army Chief of Staff General Mikhail Kolesnikov, who presented the draft to the Duma, explained to reporters that service was extended for two years both in the Army and the Navy.

Kolesnikov said servicemen in active duty, due to be discharged in this spring, would leave the Army.

However, ITAR-TASS was told by Duma Defence Committee Chairman Aleksandr Piskunov that officers and men whose discharge time is the next autumn under the new law would have to serve on until the spring of 1996.

General Kolesnikov said students of higher schools with a military training course would serve under a contract, be paid and promoted to officer ranks after their one-year service.

Technical school students are to serve two years. They remain eligible to all previous service postponement criteria, except for postponement of service for enlistees with a single parent older than 50.

Ironically, many parliamentarians approached by reporters for enlightenment on details were in need of it themselves as the law was not circulated as a text, and was passed on hearing it from Kolesnikov.

Aivars Liesdninz, an independent parliament member, voiced concern in an interview with ITAR-TASS that this setting allowed the military to "introduce in the law a few additional provisions to their ends".

Measure Not Given 'Serious Thought'

MM1204090195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Otto Latsis: "The Duma Has Abandoned Military Reform. It Is Now Up to the Federation Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Friday the Russian Federation State Duma adopted a law under which the period of compulsory military service is increased to two years, graduates of higher educational institutions (including those with military departments) are obliged to serve one year on completing their studies, and graduates of vocational and technical schools will serve two years on completing their studies. The extension of the period will also affect those servicemen who were reckoning on being discharged this fall: They will not be demobilized until next spring.

The law still has to get through the Federation Council, but the Duma's decision confirms the view voiced by some observers: It was no coincidence that the possibilities for a peaceful solution to the Chechen conflict were not fully exploited. The opponents of profound changes in defense policy needed the war as an end in itself. In the event of a convincing win it would enhance the defense lobby's political authority; in the event of a failure it would enable a tear to be shed. This is what the Army has been reduced to. In either case there would be an opportunity to demand that the military's increased needs be satisfied.

The adopted policy of increasing the numerical strength of the Armed Forces serves as a clear signal to society: Do not expect a serious military reform aimed not at increasing the numbers of servicemen but at improving their pay and training. It seems that the number of servicemen will continue to be determined not so much by the interests of the country's defense capability as by the number of general's posts that are desired.

From the budget viewpoint this policy has no strategic prospect: In the final analysis, decent funding for numerically small armed forces will be less expensive than maintaining a large army on beggarly pay. The Duma has chosen a path that ensures the smallest results in all respects, including the purely military respect, with the biggest expenditure. After all, one year lost by a mathematician or a physicist during his youth represents an irreplaceable loss, particularly if you also take into account the time needed to reinstate what has been forgotten. They are dooming Russia to become a country of second-rate mathematicians and physicists. For the defense potential in the computer age this is a loss which will not be made good even by millions of additional recruits. What a blow to society's socioeconomic potential will be struck by diverting young teachers, physicians, and engineers from their profession for a year!

Did the esteemed deputies take into account the possible reaction—in our times full of social explosions—of such a highly inflammable mass as students, who have long had nothing to lose because they cannot live on their grant and, having secured a specialty, will hardly be able to live on their wages? But they did have something to lose: deliverance from the draft. The new law frees them from the last social brake.

But the deputies do not seem to have had any opportunity at all for serious thought. The law was adopted without the usual preliminary readings, at once, as a whole, and the deputies approved it without even having the text of the document at hand, merely on the say-so of Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov! Incidentally, in the opinion of some deputies, this enables the military to introduce additional articles to the text later.

Deputies of the democratic wing voted against it. This is new confirmation of a political paradox that is characteristic of the transitional era. Parties which preach a liberal ideology champion social aims in practice in the chief political decisions. But those who loudly proclaim their allegiance to socialism in rallies and also figure in the opposition do not actually mention social problems, readily serving (under the flag of defending power interests) the most reactionary, militarist faction of the ruling bureaucracy.

Of course, such a policy on the part of "left-wingers" needs to be disguised on the eve of the elections. Is this not why populist actions are multiplying even before the start of the election campaign? There is the law on protecting investments (a gift to the people at the people's expense) and the demands for the government's resignation at just the time when it has tackled in earnest the struggle against rising prices. On the other hand, the new law on military service obligation has been adopted behind closed doors, without witnesses.

...The creators of the world's largest tank production facility in Nizhniy Tagil took legitimate pride in it during the war. But even for decades after the war it remained the largest one, inundating with its output not only the Fatherland but also the contiguous countries, from where it was then necessary to remove the tanks to Siberia, where they now have to be destroyed. The press recently reported that it is only there—in Tagil—that a place to dismantle them has been found. It is now possible to create there a museum of militarist folly brought to the point of utmost clarity: Here is an impressive production facility, and here too is the point for destroying its fruits. Deputies could be taken there on trips. They have just adopted a budget in which defense spending holds first place—this in the 50th year of peace, with poverty- stricken science and schooling and a collapsing health care service. Now they have decided to increase the army's strength. In this museum they could observe with their own eyes the fruits of such state wisdom.

Russia To Cut Armed Forces by 217,000 Troops in 1995

LD1104[illegible]1995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—Russia will cut its armed forces by 217,000 troops this year against 385,000 troops in 1994, Chief of General Staff Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov told the State Duma (lower house of Russian parliament) Tuesday [11 April].

At the same time, Kolesnikov emphasized that the army could not yet become professional, because a contract officer costs the state 12-15 million rubles a year, while a drafted soldier only 3 million rubles. "Such a burden of expenditures will break the state's spinal cord," he remarked.

Kolesnikov highly praised the State Duma for passing a series of amendments on Russia's law on military service to extend the term from 1.5 to 2 years and abolish a number of delays from the draft. "This is a difficult, unpopular, but necessary step," he believes.

The State Duma produced draft recommendations to the government to ensure "the federal budget's repayment of its debt to the Defense Ministry" and "advance payments are made to defense enterprises fulfilling state orders."

Baltic Fleet Begins Exercises

LD1204110695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—More than 20 warships, submarines and logistics support ships from the Russian Baltic Fleet began complex military exercices on Wednesday to practice missile, torpedo and artillery fire, sources in Russia's Navy press centre told ITAR-TASS.

The maneuvers, which are expected to last several days, also include anti-aircraft, anti-mine and convoy-defence training.

Failed Rocket Launch Attributed to 'Unsanctioned' Emergency Switch

LD0604142595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 6 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—The cause of the faulty launching of the "Start" booster-rocket from Plesetsk test range on March 28 by strategic rocketry forces was the unsanctioned use of a device for emergency switching off of the engine at the fourth stage. ITAR-TASS learned this at a news conference regarding the "Start" booster-rocket on Thursday.

Despite the uncalculated dynamic impact on the booster-rocket, it rallied and continued the fly on the stretch of the ballistic "pause" on the preset programme. The switching off of the engine of the fourth stage resulted in a considerable drop in speed and the forecast by the control system of the time of igniting the engine of the fifth stage beyond the limits of the realisable. It is yet unclear why the device for emergency switching off was used. The analysis will be made soon on the results of an in-depth study and modelling processes accompanying the flight.

Further Details on Abortive Launch

LD0604195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 6 (Interfax)—The abortive launch of the Russian-built Start booster carrying three satellites on March 28 was caused by a premature shutdown of the engine of the 4th stage, Head of the State Investigation Commission Yuriy Yashin told a news conference in Moscow Thursday [6 April].

It was found that the control system had sent a shutdown signal 12 seconds ahead of the calculated time and failed to switch on the fifth stage. Developed for the Start booster, the new command system is not employed in a military Topol missile used as the basis for the new delivery vehicle.

Head of Moscow-based Kompleks Designers Yuriy Solomonov said that despite the setback, it is now known that military ballistic missiles could be converted for civilian use.

He said none of the 10 countries including the United States, Germany and Australia had walked out on contracts on commercial satellite launches with the help of Start boosters. As an example, Solomonov pointed to a contract with the Swedish Space Corporation for the launch of 250-kilogram Odin satellite for radio astronomy studies in 1997 which remains in force.

More importantly, Kompleks struck a number of other similar deals in the past week.

Solomonov did not rule out the possibility of a renewed launch of the Start booster with Israeli and Mexican-built satellites (lost on March 28) for what he described as moral reasons rather than contract commitments.

He put the number of successful Topol launches at more than 400 saying that one abortive attempt could hardly dent the booster's prestige.

Explosion Not Seen To Jeopardize Foreign Contracts

MK0704080595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Mikhail Chernyshov report in the "Breakdown" column: "Foreign Satellites and Russian Rocket Stages Are Suspected of Causing the 'Start' Rocket Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Controversy continues over the unsuccessful March debut by the 'Start' rocket, when an Israeli, a Mexican, and a Russian satellite burned up in the atmosphere. Speaking at a press conference on 6 April, the designers of the new carrier accused the mass media of giving "unobjective coverage" to the event. According to chief Start designer Yuriy Solomonov, there is no reason "to make a tragedy" of the incident.

A state commission investigating the causes of the accident is to formulate its final conclusions by 14 April. One version considers the "impact of the payload," i.e., the satellites, on the rocket.

In Plesetsk, a new five-stage carrier was tested, whose three stages were from the Topol military missile. There are no complaints against them. The press conference organizers unanimously disassociated themselves from the other two stages, which were apparently to "blame" for the catastrophe. In all likelihood, the reason for the failure was "systems incompatibility."

The failure did not affect the portfolio of orders; moreover, after the accident Start developers have concluded new contracts with foreign clients. No earlier contracts have been canceled.

Progress M-27 Cargo Craft Docks With Mir Orbital Complex

LD1104221995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2135 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 April—Today at 0101 Moscow time the Progress M-27 automatically controlled cargo craft docked to the Mir piloted complex.

The cargo vessel has docked with the station on the side where the transfer compartment is located. Fuel for the joint propulsion system, equipment, scientific apparatus, food and drinking water have been brought up into orbit.

According to the telemetric information and reports by cosmonauts Vladimir Dezhurov and Gennadiy Strekalov and Amercian cosmonaut Norman Taggard, the onboard systems of the Mir complex are operating normally.

Federal Assembly

Chernomyrdin Against New Parliamentary Commission on Chechnya

LD1204141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 April—Chairman of the Russian Federation government Viktor Chernomyrdin has asked Federation Council deputies not to set up yet another commission to deal with the Chechen crisis. The upper chamber of parliament will discuss setting up such a commission at a plenary sitting today.

At a meeting with the heads of administration of the Russian regions, the prime minister said that more commissions were not needed in Chechnya since "there is no one to hold talks with" there. Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the main combat action in the republic had already ended. "Things need to be finished there and the "i's" need to be dotted," he said. In Viktor Chernomyrdin's opinion, another commission to deal with matters would just "confuse things and give rise to questions in Russia and abroad."

Federation Council Rejects Presidential Elections Bill

LD1204084795 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As our parliamentary correspondent has just reported, the Federation Council has turned down the bill on the election of the president in view of the fact that certain of its clauses are unacceptable. The deputies were not agreed on Clause 4, where the right to announce the presidential election day is granted to the Central Electoral Commission, and the Federation Council will not be able to use its constitutional right.

Federation Council Hearings Held on Judicial Reform

LD1004140395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—The Federation Council held hearings on Monday to discuss the pace of judicial reform in Russia and the establishment of judicial power as an independent branch capable of protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The hearings were attended by State Duma deputies, members of the presidential administration, representatives of the government, the Supreme and Constitutional Courts and the Court of Arbitration, the Ministry of Justice and other ministries and departments.

Issa Kostoyev, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Constitutional Legislation, Legal and Judicial Issues, reminded that in his address to the Federal Assembly President Boris Yeltsin pointed out that "without a viable judicial branch all other branches of state power are ineffective and, therefore, the entire state system remains unstable."

An effective judicial branch is critical to the country which has embarked on the path of democratic reform, Kostoyev said.

The speakers pointed out that the reform is moving slower than was planned, but some progress has been achieved, including the adoption of several laws aimed at strengthening the judicial branch, amendments to the present legislation and the election of the members of the Constitutional and Supreme Arbitration Courts. Out of 115 members of the Supreme Court 105 have also been appointed.

Under the Russian legislation, the courts are regulated only by the constitution and funded by the government. The absence of a law on the judicial system hampers judicial reform in Russia. Several draft laws have been developed by the president and a number of organisations and submitted to the State Duma for consideration.

In addition, there is no law on the protection of the rights of judges and members of law enforcement agencies. There are over 500 vacancies in district courts and over 150 in higher-tier courts.

Participants in the hearings said that "extremely little has been done to solve the personnel and financial problems facing the courts. The resolution of these problems is critical to creating truly independent law enforcement agencies."

Federation Council Rejects Law for Limited Draft

LD1104200395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1933 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—The Federation Council met behind closed doors on Tuesday to dismiss in a roll-call the Federal law "On Urgent Measures to Man the Russian Armed Forces and Border Guard Troops on the Basis of the Draft", which the State Duma passed on March 24.

The law said that "citizens liable to the draft into the army, except for reserve officers, can be sent to serve only in the armed forces and border guard troops of the Russian Federation".

FC Security and Defense Committee chairman Pyotr Shirshov has said that a law that has been dismissed in principle does not exist any more and must be created anew.

Shirshov described the FC's decision as "logical, justified and responsible, because it prevents the army's further decay and maintains its combat readiness". "If we prohibit the draft into the railway and interior ministry troops and other forces, our defenses, our security and our statehood would be harmed", Shirshov said.

Federation Council Approves Law on Courts of Arbitration

LD1204084095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 TASS—The Federation Council of the Russian Federation, the upper chamber of the Russian federal legislature, today approved, after repeated consideration, a new constitutional law "On the Courts of Arbitration in the Russian Federation".

According to chairman of the Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Courts Issa Kostoyev, the new [law] defines the authority of the courts of arbitration in line with the concept of transforming the arbitration system that existed in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic into full-fledged courts.

The transformation is necessary to form a market economy, recognise the equality of all forms of property and protect the rights of all participants in market relations.

The new law establishes territorial arbitration districts and eliminates the contradictions between the status of the autonomous area and that of other component parts of the Federation.

Federation Council Urges Moscow To End Yugoslav Sanctions

LD1204153995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)—Russian diplomats should help ease or, if possible, fully cancel sanctions of the United Nations Security Council against Yugoslavia, and restore its membership in the United Nations and other international organizations, says an appeal of the Russian parliament's upper chamber to President Boris Yeltsin. The document was adopted today.

"The current system of sanctions has proved to be not very efficient in the termination of bloodshed, and the ongoing Yugoslav crisis creates a real threat of involvement of other states in the armed conflict," says the appeal.

The Federation Council thinks that "Russia can and must boost a Yugoslav peaceful and just settlement and become the guarantor of stability in the region."

The document urges "appreciation of the constructive steps taken by Belgrade and support to suspended and fully cancelled sanctions of the Security Council against Yugoslavia."

It says that "the stand of Yugoslavia, which is not directly involved in the Bosnian conflict but has accepted the peace plan of the international contact group for Bosnia and Herzegovina and opposed the advocates of military solution, is the key factor of settlement in former Yugoslavia."

The Federation Council believes that "peoples of Yugoslavia must see an adequate international estimation of their choice for peace."

The upper parliament chamber thinks that the Yugoslav crisis can be peacefully settled only through "political ways and means, objective and equal treatment of all states that formed on territory of former Yugoslavia, and respect to human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities."

Federation Council Rejects Draft Law on Duma Elections

LD1204154195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 12 (Interfax)—In a 113 to 11 vote, with 6 abstentions, the Federation Council (Russian Senate) has turned down the draft law on the election of the State Duma (lower chamber), approved by Duma on March 24, as it contained a number of unacceptable provisions. At least 90 votes are required for the adoption of the law.

The Federation Council rejected the ratio between the State Duma deputies elected in one-mandate electoral districts and in the federal electoral district. Its committee For Constitutional Legislation And Judicial Issues, which proposed turning down the draft law, argues that this ratio must be 300 to 150. Meanwhile, the law proposes a 225 to 225 ratio. The committee stated that if the draft law is approved, the State Duma deputies will mostly represent Moscow and the Moscow region, not Russia as a whole.

According to the constitution, the State Duma may overcome the Federation Council's veto with 300 votes and send the document directly to the president for approval, disregarding the opinion of the upper house.

Earlier, chief of the presidential staff Sergey Filatov told Interfax that the president would not use his right to veto the law on electing the State Duma.

However, vice-chairperson of the Federation Council's Committee for constitutional legislation Yelena Mizulina expressed the hope that the State Duma would not oppose the Federation Council's veto, and that a conciliatory commission would produce a draft acceptable to both houses of the parliament. "Mutual agreement is quite possible," she said.

Recent Duma Decisions Viewed; Many Called 'Crazy'

MK0804101395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksey Kirpichnikov under the "Lawmakers" rubric: "Spring and No-Confidence Vote Sharpen the Sense of Unreality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's State Duma plenary sitting spawned a fairy-tale mix of decisions. Among other things, there were conscription, Sergey Mavrodi, and giving up on a no-confidence vote and the idea for a medical commission [to monitor the health of high officials]. The other decisions can be divided into crazy, half-crazy and non-crazy, that is to say, relatively serious.

There are only three, however, in the latter group. Six auditors of the Accounting Chamber were appointed. Now Aleksandr Andreyev (Communist Party of the Russian Federation), Aleksandr Kushnar ("Russia's Choice"), Eleonora Mitrofanova (Liberal Democratic Party of Russia-Zhirinovskiy Party [LDPR-ZhP]), Aleksandr Nozhnikov (Party of Russian Unity and Accord), Sergey Openyshev (Agrarian Party), and Yuriy Rodionov (New Regional Policy) will be monitoring, on behalf of the State Duma, the observance of the budget for a term of six years, that is to say, they will serve longer than the term of the next Duma. It was lucky for both the above-mentioned auditors and their factions that they were voted into office before a possible vote of no confidence in the government and a dissolution of the Duma. One can only envy the auditors, who now have the status of minister, and their factions, from whom perhaps no more will be heard until the auditors' term of office is up.

The results of the conciliation work with the Federation Council on amendments to the tax laws were approved. Amendments to the VAT [value-added tax] law were passed with no fundamental corrections. At the same time, the decision reached on the law on profits of enterprises and organizations was original as is the Duma's wont: the deputies passed a compromise text albeit with "a small show of stubbornness"—the size of profit tax payable to the federation components' budgets is 22 percent, rather than the 25 percent suggested by their Council. The former figure won more than 300 votes, and now it is up to the president to chose between the chambers' preferences by signing the law or vetoing it.

A new variant of the long-suffering law on state support for the mass media and book publishing, a law which has repeatedly been rejected by the authorities towering over the Duma, was adopted. This time around, Mikhail Poltoranin, Information Policy Committee chairman, removed two chapters from the text of the law: on the despicable National Fund, and—just in case—on state orders. The remaining articles are quite innocuous and deal with definitions and with modest entitlements for workers in mass media being privatized. They are not likely to meet objections either in the upper or the lower chamber, or from the president. The Duma nonetheless put a fly in the ointment by rejecting Poltoranin's amendments affecting taxation and hard-currency control, without which the entitlements are reduced considerably.

Other sorts of actions include those dealing with the creation of a commission on corruption in parliament. The LDPR ZhP leader insisted on this commission and had proposed it once earlier, with references to the venality of his former subordinates who had fled to join the "Stability" group. There were also decisions on fashioning laws to ban the transfer of Russian territory to foreign states, the illegality of the transfer of Sevastopol to Ukraine, a unilateral moratorium on cutting the Black Sea Fleet, the delimitation of sea borders with the United States, and a discussion on lifting sanctions against Iraq and Yugoslavia.

It's spring....

Confidence Issue Withdrawn From Duma Agenda

LD1104170595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—The issue of confidence in the Russian Government has been withdrawn from the agenda of Wednesday's Duma plenary. However, deputies are planning to discuss the issue next week on the insistence of the faction of the Russian Democratic Party, chairman of the Duma committee for affairs of the commonwealth and relations with compatriots Konstantin Zatulin told correspondents.

Zatulin was the one to initiate the issue and collect signatures necessary for putting it on the agenda. Last Friday leader of the Liberal-Democratic faction Vladimir Zhirinovskiy unexpectedly withdrew signatures of his faction members, and the issue was removed from the agenda. In his turn, Zatulin demanded that the signatures be withdrawn on the basis of written statements of faction deputies.

Zhirinovskiy produced the written statements today, but the issue was initiated again by the Democratic Faction, said Zatulin.

Head of the Democratic Faction Sergei Glazyev confirmed the words of Zatulin. His faction will raise the question of confidence in the government at a meeting of the Duma Council on Thursday, April 14. In accordance to the Duma rules, the question will be put on the agenda no later than in a week.

Duma Bans Use of Armed Forces in Chechnya

LD1204092595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—After four months of a bloody conflict in Chechnya, the Russian State Duma passed a law Wednesday banning the use of the Armed Forces in the rebel republic and instructing the government to begin peace talks with Chechen militants.

The law called "on temporary measures of political settlement of the crisis in the Chechen Republic" bans the "use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation which is not envisaged by Article 10 of the law on defence".

The article says that the Russian Armed Forces "are designated for repelling an aggression and inflicting a defeat on the aggressor, as well as for fulfilling tasks envisaged by international commitments of the Russian Federation".

It adds that the use of the Armed Forces "for implementing tasks not connected with their designation is allowed only by a law or by a resolution" of the parliament.

Neither of the two terms have been complied with before sending the troops last December 11 to quell the independence bid of Chechnya.

The Duma also "instructed the Government of the Russian Federation to begin talks with the command of the armed formations resisting the federal troops in Chechnya for achieving a ceasefire agreement without preliminary conditions".

It said that federal bodies of authority can begin operating in the rebel republic only after a state of emergency is introduced there.

According to the law, the Russian prime minister is to head a commission which will focus on aranging the peace talks and on the creation of new bodies of power in Chechnya.

State Duma Adopts Law on Increasing Minimum Wage

LD1204101795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0912 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—The State Duma today adopted in complete form a federal law "On Increasing the Minimum Wage," according to which the minimum wage is to be 34,400 rubles from 1 April and is to rise to 43,700 rubles on 1 May.

A similar law adopted by the chamber earlier proposed the introduction of a minimum wage of 54,100 oubles from 1 February. It was rejected by the president of the Russian Federation, who said in a letter to the Duma that allocations for this increase had not been envisaged in the federal budget and that implementation of the law would mean less money going to social and investment programs.

In connection with this, the parliamentarians supported today's proposal by Gennadiy Melikyan, labor minister of the Russian Federation, and adopted the law in its current form. The document was submitted today for approval by the Federation Council.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Notes 'Cadre Questions' During Nalchik Visit

LD1104203795 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Report by unidentified correspondent on President Boris Yeltsin's 11 April visit to Nalchik, including recorded remarks by Yeltsin in Nalchik]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] The official visit of the Russian president to the Kabardino-Balkar republic began today. Boris Yeltsin visited the city of Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria. This is the first official visit of the Russian president to this North Caucasus republic, although he had been here once on a private visit. At the airplane Mr. and Mrs Yeltsin were met by president of Kabardino-Balkaria Valeriy Kokov and his wife. Following the official ceremony of the meeting Boris Yeltsin found some time to talk to journalists. The president complained of bad weather throughout his whole holiday. In spite of this he thinks that in moral terms his rest has been successful. However, work does not stop for a day, said Boris Nikolayevich.

[Yeltsin] Almost every day I work a lot with papers, with different resolutions, decrees and so on. I speak to [Viktor] Chernomyrdin, [Pavel] Grachev, and Yuriy Mikhaylovich Luzhkov.

[Correspondent] They discuss economic problems. As the president put it, there are some depressive regions, for which special programs need to be worked out. Boris Yeltsin did not say however which regions these are and what programs. Neither did he clarify his sentence that some cadre reshuffle is under way in the top echelons of power.

[Yeltsin] Some cadre questions—some. I won't say anything else to you.

[Correspondent] The president said nothing that could be interpreted in the context of the upcoming elections. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Praises Kabardino-Balkaria's President

LD1104180095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0948 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kipkeyev, Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nalchik, 11 Apr—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who this morning arrived in Nalchik from Sochi, made a statement at the airport about attitudes toward Kabardino-Balkaria.

"Kabardino-Balkaria is very highly esteemed in Russia and by the leadership of the Federation", Boris Yeltsin said. "This republic is very stable and it firmly holds its position in the federal bodies".

Boris Yeltsin spoke positively about the work of Kabardino-Balkarian President Valeriy Kokov, calling him a "substantial figure who is respected by everyone in the Caucasus."

"This is my first official visit to Kabardino-Balkaria in order to see how industry and agriculture are developing in the republic, to chat with people, and to find out how they are living," the Russian president said.

As is known, Boris Yeltsin made an unofficial visit to Nalchik in 1993, but there has never been such a major trip to this region.

"We are giving Kabardino-Balkaria a lot of help," Boris Yeltsin observed. "Quite recently a major decree was adopted, and it has now started working. The main thing is to implement it, so that the republic develops and prospers."

Grachev Visit to Irkutsk Detailed

LD1204114395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0430 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Irkutsk, 12 Apr—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has concluded his short visit to the Irkutsk region. He arrived there yesterday evening and was accompanied by Igor Sergeyev, commander-in-chief of the strategic missile troops.

Following the arrival in Irkutsk, the minister met Governor Yuriy Nozhikov. The meeting focused on living conditions of military garrisons and units of the region. In particular, the issues of wage arrears amounting to 30 billion rubles, construction of houses for servicemen, and the future of military encampments, which are to be vacant as a result of the reduction of the Army, were discussed. The meeting also touched upon the problems of organizing the spring call-up. The head of the region said that the defense minister should make an official statement on not involving the 1995 draftees in combat actions.

Pavel Grachev this morning visited a regiment of strategic missile troops stationed near Irkutsk. The minister left for the Volga Military District in the afternoon.

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Dudayev Security Head's 'Diary' Confiscated

LD1104185995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1746 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—"According to the mobile information center, the military-political situation in Chechnya has not considerably changed," says a report of the Russian government press service received by ITAR-TASS today.

"Within the past 24 hours the federal troops cleared of militants the populated localities of Zakan-Yurt and Achkhoi-Martan. Residents of these and other settlements are voluntarily laying down arms. Residents of the Ishkhoi-Yurt and Engel-Yurt villages have voluntary laid down several dozens of fire arms and a large amount of Trotyl.

"Part of armaments was given to the local self-defence units in the populated locality of Germenchuk so that they could oppose the militants and prevent their penetration into the settlement.

"A storage of ammunition and arms has been found in Shali. The storage contained several dozens of fire arms and over 50 grenades.

"According to the Interior Ministry's press center, the diary of head of the Dudayev state security department Sultan Geliskhanov has been found and confiscated.

"Restorations go on in Groznyy. Over 1,000 tonnes of construction waste have been taken away. Food and drinking water are being supplied to the city, and markets are open. All is quiet in the city. No crimes with the exception of minor thefts have been registered.

Chechen Defense Council Urges Political Solution

LD1104201795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—The Chechen Defense Council headed by Dzhokhar Dudayev has stated that it was still "committed to political ways for settling conflicts and did not see a military solution to the Chechnya conflict," Dzhokhar Dudayev's press secretary, Movladiy Udugov, said Tuesday.

At the same time, the council blamed the Russian authorities for "unprecedented brutality against civilians and large-scale genocide of the Chechen people."

The council also blamed the international community for its failure to take action to stop bloodshed in Chechnya.

Meanwhile, the information agency Chechen-Press reported that Dudayev had called on his compatriots for armed resistance. According to the agency, the federal troops killed over 600 residents of Samashki while storming it.

The Russian Defense Ministry information and press department responded that "these statements are untrue."

Samashki Operation Reportedly Completed

LD1104163695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—Federal troops over the past 24 hours completed an operation to dislodge Chechen militants from the populated center Samashki and outlying areas in the west. Also captured were two other rebel strongholds, Zakan-Yurt and Achkhoy-Martan.

A spokesman for the Russian military command in the region told Interfax that an understanding was reached for a peaceful solution to the conflict with most people in the Achkhoy-Martan district.

He said that the elder of Novyy Sharoy, now released by Russian forces, had been to Achkhoy-Martan to try to persuade its population to cooperate with federal troops. "The residents of Achkhoy-Martan are handing in weapons in the hope of peace and calm in their district," he said.

A similar agreement, said the spokesman, was reached with the residents of Germenchuk, who were allowed to hold on to some of the weapons to be distributed among members of the newly-established self-defense units, but on condition that they provide a list of those carrying them.

In the meantime, a cache of weapons containing a large amount of firearms, grenade launchers and army radio-stations was uncovered in Gudermes (east of Groznyy) seized earlier by Russian forces. In a separate incident, another cache containing 20 automatic guns, a machine-gun, two sniper rifles, a number of pistols and grenade launchers and 60 grenades was uncovered in Shali.

Also uncovered in Gudermes were personal diaries and office documents belonging to former head of the Chechen Security Department Sultan Geliskhanov, according to the press center of the Russian military command.

Residents of Iskhoy-Yurt and Engel-Yurt turned in dozens of firearms and 8 kilograms of dynamite after talks with Russian commanders.

MVD Denies 'Huge' Civilian Casualties in Samashki

LD1104172795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Head of the Russian Interior Ministry's [MVD] public relations center Vladimir Vorozhtsov today refuted media reports claiming huge civilian casualties in the Chechen settlement of Samashki as result of the federal troops' operation.

Over 130 militants were killed and 124 taken prisoner during the fierce fighting, the Russian troops lost 13 people killed, said Vorozhtsov with a reference to the press center of the federal troops command.

He also refuted claims that correspondents are not allowed in Samashki for fear of the exposure of bombing consequences. Vorozhtsov said that the federal artillery and helicopters shelled only the forest west of the settlement which housed five strong points of the militants. None shelled the populated locality, added the official. Correspondents were not allowed only to the settlement zone where ten militants were still resisting. After the resistance was suppressed, all correspondents who are accredited to the temporary information center can freely move around the settlement, said Vorozhtsov. He said that a number of unaccredited correspondents had come to Nazran and were prohibited to enter the zone.

According to the press center of the federal troops command, the Dudayev militants were offered to free civilians and lay down arms before the final storm of the strong point. Commander of the militants, former Soviet colonel nicknamed "Grandpa", rejected both proposals. Some local residents showed their dissatisfaction and 450 civilians managed to break away from the settlement, said Vorozhtsov.

Correspondents from the NTV and the Public Russian TV are working in Samashki, he added.

Defense Ministry Denies Samashki Targeted by Artillery

LD1104182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—The information and press department of the Russian Defense Ministry has dismissed as groundless and provocative the statement by the former human rights commissioner Sergey Kovalev that the Chechen village of Samashki (west of Groznyy) came under a rocket and bomb attack which caused civilian casualties.

The Defense Ministry said Tuesday that the aviation and artillery of federal forces dealt strikes against manpower and material outside communities, primarily in the forest southeast of Samashki. "The artillery was not used against communities, let alone multiple rocket launchers or bombing raids, even in spite of fierce resistance by the militants", the statement says.

The Defense Ministry said practically no damage had been caused to Samashki, Davydenko or Novy Sharoi. Civilians are reported to have already returned to their homes.

Meanwhile the pro-Dudayev Chechen press news agency says that in last week's operation to storm Samashki more than 600 local civilians were killed, more than 500 others taken to an unknown destination and about 200 homes burnt down.

The same agency said Tuesday that Dzhokhar Dudayev on April 10 spoke in the villages of Bamut and Achkhoi-Martan in Western Chechnya, where he called on the Chechen people to take up arms and defend themselves. He said that the "undeclared, illegal and unjustified war of Russia against Chechnya was open genocide of the Chechen people".

Railway Troops' Advance Train Passes Through Samashki

LD1104184395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Video report from Chechnya by correspondent Aleksandr Galkin; introduction by announcer; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Fighting has not finished in the west of Chechnya but the first train has already arrived in Samashki. The railway is functioning in Chechnya. Aleksandr Galkin reports on how it is being restored.

[Galkin] A railway troops advance train—it is still called an armored train although the only protection it has are sand bags—passed through Samashki station and progressed further. Lieutenant General Zhudinov, the deputy head of the railway troops, reported that the station buildings at Samashki and Samakli have not been destroyed, just mined, which is indirect proof that the Air Force and heavy artillery did not hit the town. They did, however, actively strike the forest south of Samashki where Dudayev's men had consolidated their hold. After Groznyy, Samashki was the strongest and perhaps the last bastion of the Dudayev groups.

[V.I. Zhudinov, deputy head of Russian Federation railway troops] We have cleared mines from a total of around 400 kilometers of railway track over the past few days as well as from around 100 buildings belonging to the railway, and we have cleared mines from approximately 1,000 railway carriages of various types. We have good, well qualified experts to do this. And I think that we will be equal to the tasks which the state has set us.

[Galkin] Have you had any losses?

[Zhudinov] We have had losses. One of our soldiers has died. Three officers have been wounded and three privates. They were wounded near Samashki.

[Galkin] We received a report today that another two officers from the railway troops were wounded by snipers in Samashki. But despite this, in a couple of days the southern, shorter, branchline of the Chechen railway, will be completely ready to let through carriages with fuel, building materials and foodstuffs for the people of Groznyy. The federal troops headquarters will also move there from Mozdok by 20 April. [video shows railway station, track, interior of train, military equipment being unloaded from carriages, tank and aircraft on a road, men carrying weapons, correspondent inside train speaking to Zhudinov, derailed railway carriages, tanks on railway trucks, cargo trucks, soldiers working on carriages, trains in operation]

Duma Deputies Denied Access to Samashki

LD1104191895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Boris Didenko informed our radio station that deputies of the Russian State Duma were not allowed into Samashki today, .

[Begin Didenko recording] It was very important to visit the village because Ingushetia is full of rumors that acts of genocide against the population of the village of Samashki have occurred. We needed to find out whether it is true that the village has been destroyed, that the residents suffered and in what numbers, and how many people were killed and wounded there. We have been deprived of the possibility to establish this. Thus, rumors disseminated by the local population, including the people who left this village, are the only source of information to date. [end recording]

Chechens Reportedly Fired at Samashki Civilians

LD1204052795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0019 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 12 Apr—A battalion of Chechens who earlier fought in Abkhazia shot at close range on the afternoon of 11 April at some peaceful residents of the village of Samashki who wanted to establish contact with the command of the federal troops, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Antonov, commander of the group of interior troops in Chechnya, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

According to eyewitnesses, the outskirts of Samashki were damaged to some extent during the recent fighting. No damage has been caused to its central area. Military sources report that snipers are hiding in some parts of the village and house basements are being used as permanent weapon emplacements. Russian troops only open fire to retaliate. Areas around Samashki that have been cleared of mines by Russian sweepers are now being mined once again by Dudayev's irregulars.

Method of Dealing With Samashki 'Gunmen' Defended

MM1204120695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Undated statement by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Information and Press Directorate: "There Were No Missile or Bomb Strikes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 April a number of mass media circulated a statement made by former human rights commissioner S.A. Kovalev on the use of force against the civilians during military operations.

According to information supposedly at S. Kovalev's disposal, on 7 April there was a missile and bomb attack on the population center of Samashki as a result of which there was much destruction in the village and casualties among the civilians.

In actual fact these reports do not correspond to reality and are of a provocative nature. As has already been reported, on 7 April the federal troops blockaded a large group of gunmen in the area around the population center of Samashki and a large tract of forest around it. To avoid casualties among the civilian population and pointless bloodshed, the command of the grouping demanded via the village elders that the surrounded gunmen should leave the population center and hand in their weapons. In addition, the deadline of the ultimatum was extended at the request of the local inhabitants. However, the formations of gunmen refused to leave the village and deliberately shot the elders who had held talks with the federal forces command.

Within an hour of this tragedy, around 140 inhabitants made their way to the northeast outskirts of Samashki in order to leave the area of the intended military operations. They had been given this opportunity.

It was only after that that the elimination of the gunmen began. It must be emphasized that there had been no artillery fire or, particularly, multiple rocket-launcher strike, never mind bomb strike or ground attack on any population centers. Despite the desperate resistance put up by the gunmen.

Federal forces aircraft and artillery attacked the concentrated manpower and equipment of the unlawful armed formations outside the population centers, mainly in the area of the forest tract southeast of Samashki.

All this made it possible to leave the population centers of Samashki, Davydenko, and Novyy Sharoy practically undamaged. The civilians have already returned to these villages, which millions of television viewers saw in the report shown on Public Russian Television's "Vremya" program 10 April.

[signed] The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Information and Press Directorate.

MVD Troops' Storming of Samashki Detailed

MK1204093795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "War" rubric: "The Taking of Samashki Is MVD Troops' First Independent Operation. Dudayev's Last Fortified Point Should Be Taken This Week"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev's teyp [clan] lives in Samashki. Therefore Samashki, for the same reason as Groznyy, is a symbol of Chechen resistance. The village sits on the border with outwardly peaceful Ingushetia, which is why our troops entered it several times in the beginning of the conflict. However, each time they did so, Dudayev's headquarters sent reinforcements of its finest fighters from Groznyy, who repulsed the Russian servicemen with losses. Besides, Samashki straddles a railroad; once it is taken, trains will be able to proceed unhindered to Groznyy not only from Gudermes but also from Nazran.

Therefore the operation to "mop up" Samashki was, for the united command in Chechnya, the main operation of last week. Taking part in the storming were the 21st Sofrino Motorized MVD Rifle Brigade, the "Vityaz" detachment, and a combined OMON detachment. In the words of Lieutenant General Anatoliy Antonov (commander of the MVD group of forces in Chechnya), this was the MVD forces' first independent military operation in their history.

The fields surrounding the village were planted with controlled mines which Dudayevites procured from army depots back in 1992. On 6 March, an army tank and an APC were crippled on a mine field during the preparations for the operation. The troops could not physically penetrate Samashki, for which reason General Antonov conducted talks on surrender with the mayor and the local mullah. The inhabitants were prepared to surrender without fighting but this was prevented by the fighters of Shamil Basayev's "Abkhaz" battalion, who were in Samashki. However, according to Gen. Antonov, all who wanted to do so (women, old people, and some men) were given an opportunity to leave Samashki.

At 1600 on 7 April, troops stormed into Samashki, using a passage through the mine field which the locals showed, and fighting, which was hand-to-hand at times, continued in the village until the next morning. Ten men of the Sofrino brigade and two Moscow OMON men were killed, up to 40 were seriously wounded, and one more tank and an APC were destroyed. The enemy casualties are assessed at 130 with 124 captured.

Refugees from Samashki and officials in Ingushetia state that many civilians died at the hands of Russian soldiers in the course of the operation. Casualties among the civilians remaining in the village were virtually unavoidable in such a battle. The losses so embittered the troops that those captured in the Samashki operation cannot—so they say—be presented to the press. It is, however, also evident that the command did everything possible to minimize civilian casualties—although aviation, heavy artillery and multiple launchers were at the ready, they were not used in the storming of Samashki. There are practically no civilians in Samashki today, but neither are there zones of total destruction like those in some areas of Groznyy. The village, the railroad, and the nearby industrial facilities are mostly intact. Only those houses from which the Russian troops were fired upon were destroyed.

On the 9th, the troops were successfully "flushing" the enemy from the tract of forest east of Samashki using artillery to the maximum. In the words of Gen. Antonov, locals gave the command the precise location of Dudayev's bunkers in the forest. "This is typical," the commander said, "no one in Chechnya wants to fight today except the militant zealots." The town of Achkhoy-Martan and the villages near it surrendered without a fight on the 10th. Only in Zakan-Yurt, one soldier of the Novocherkassk MVD Division was killed and three were wounded. A group of militants (up to 10 men) who opened fire were killed, and the house they were hiding in was destroyed. No one else seriously suffered in Zakan-Yurt, as far as one may judge, because locals warned the command in good time about the enemy presence in the village. By the evening of the 10th, villagers were standing on the porches of their homes glumly looking at the MVD troops' APC's on the village streets, but there was no more shooting.

Now MVD officers are moving their units toward Bomut, Dudayev's last major strong point in western Chechnya. Unlike Samashki, which is situated on a plain, Bomut is in a mountain gorge which would be difficult to storm. Besides, there are old Strategic Missile Forces installations located there, with protective shelters and up to one-meter-thick reinforced concrete silo walls. However, the plan is that Bomut will be taken this week.

Dudayev Aide Says War Not Over, Details Talks

LD1204120695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1122 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Apr—"The Chechen war did not end with the fall of the towns of Shali, Gudermes, and Argun but, on the contrary, it flared up again," chief of Dudayev's staff Aslan Maskhadov said on the underground TV last night.

He said that "the war in Chechnya will cease immediately if the Russian leadership agrees to withdraw its troops and to commence talks with the legitimate republican authorities."

Aslan Maskhadov said that on 10 April he had had a meeting, at the behest of the Russian side, with the command of the federal troops in Chechnya, but failed to specify the identities of those he met and the location of the meeting.

He said: "In the course of the meeting I confirmed the Chechen side's readiness to sit at the negotiating table, but categorically rejected the proposal to lay down arms."

Dudayev Denies Plans To Flee

LD1204120795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1157 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Apr—"I, like everyone else, have no other homeland and I do not intend to flee anywhere," Dzhokhar Dudayev stated in an address on underground television last night. He called for Chechens to return to their family homes, which had been destroyed, and try to restore them by the fall.

Dudayev mentioned in passing that attempts to find a peaceful solution to the Chechen conflict were continuing, but he did not give any details.

Ease of Obtaining Interview With Dudayev Described

MM1204091395 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Babich: "They Offered To 'Surrender' Dudayev to Me"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently I received a telephone call from my friend Sergey, who works as a translator at the Moscow correspondents' center of a major U.S. newspaper. He had just returned from Chechnya. The start of the conversation was rather unexpected: "Do you want an interview with Dudayev?" Then there followed a brief description of the process: "Come to the village of Staryye Atagi. It is somewhere near Shali. Ask to be shown Yandarbiyev's house—every dog there knows where it is. If Yandarbiyev himself is not at home, go in, don't be shy. There is an old man sitting in an annex there who sends anyone for an interview with Dudayev. He will call the body guards and in two seconds you will be taken to Dudayev. They will check your documents—and off you go."

Staryye Atagi has now been bombed and it is entirely possible that Dudayev has already left. But even now any halfway competent journalist in Chechnya knows how to get an interview with Dudayev. They are also fully aware of the whereabouts of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev—the "vice president of the Chechen Republic" whose arrest warrant was signed long ago by the prosecutor's office, as was the warrant for Dudayev's arrest.

So are they simply pulling the wool over our eyes?

Kaliningrad Oblast Threatens To Hold Secession Referendum

MK1204125195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Journal" rubric: "Kaliningrad Residents Threaten Moscow With Independence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kaliningrad Oblast leadership intends to take measures in response to the center's decisions on abolishing foreign economic preferences. Governor Yuriy Matochkin said before departing for Moscow to hold talks on the matter that unless Moscow pays heed to Kaliningrad residents' views, a referendum on secession from Russia may be held in the oblast.

Leningrad Trade Union Chief Cited on Protest Day

MM1204093895 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Yevgeniy Makarov, chairman of the Leningrad Federation of Trade Unions, by Nataliya Korkonosenko; date and place not given: "Patience Is Running Out"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A fierce conflict between the working people and the supreme authorities—this was how Yevgeniy Makarov, chairman of the Leningrad Federation of Trade Unions, described the thrust of the forthcoming Day of United Actions. To what is the conflict "tied"?

[Makarov] In St. Petersburg and [Leningrad] Oblast employers owe 62.9 billion rubles in unpaid wages. This affects more than 350 enterprises. By far the largest part of the debt is for the state order. As a result hundreds of thousands of people are on forced leave and have not received their pay for months.

Municipal housing construction has effectively been cut, and the city waiting list has not moved for over a year.

Special alarm is caused by the fact that the newly adopted law on veterans does not have a mechanism for implementation. This is blasphemous as far as front-line veterans are concerned.

"All this," runs an appeal to trade union members and the working people and inhabitants of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast, "is the result of the 'reforms' being carried out by the Russian government, the result of the state's policy toward its people, a policy aimed at the people's impoverishment. The time has come to dismiss those who cannot cope with their obligations and promises. Trade unions should unite in the framework of the 'Trade Unions of Russia' election association and bring to power at the next elections truly hard-working people, genuine representatives of the working people."

[Korkonosenko] Why, in enterprises in which the issuing of pay is many months late, do the bosses receive it on time?

[Makarov] Let the example of the Kirov Plant Trade Union Committee, which has adopted a decision forbidding the administration from receiving pay before the workers' collective and engineering and technical personnel, serve as an answer.

Shakhray Views Regional Policy Issues in Yekaterinburg

954F2000B Yekaterinburg OBLASTNAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 95 p 1

[Article by Rimma Pechurkina: "Major Policy: For a Scientist To Be Heard, He Must Be at Least a Deputy Prime Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An international conference on the subject "The Regional Structure of Russia in Geopolitical and Civilized Dynamics" was held in Yekaterinburg. It was opened by G. Mesyats, head of the Ural Department of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A. Strakhov, head of administration of Sverdlovsk Oblast, presented the welcoming address to the members of the conference. Scientists from Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Vladivostok, Moscow, St. Petersburg, and also their colleagues from the United States discussed world experience with state systems and the legal and economic aspects of regional policy in contemporary Russia. While the scientists got together in earnest and for a long time (the conference program was calculated for three days), local journalists and politicians came mainly "for Shakhray."

The deputy prime minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, deputy of the Russian Federation State Duma, delivered the report: "Russia's National Interests and Problems of Regional Development."

S. Shakhray endeavored first of all to rehabilitate the concept of "national interest," which was soundly criticized by the opponents of democracy (in whose camp Sergey Mikhaylovich grew up as a politician). Disregard of national priorities, he believes, has led to numerous complications, including the Chechen crisis.

However important the different aspects of the "philosophy of statehood" brought out by Shakhray, and however unquestionable his claim that a regional policy as an orderly system does not exist in Russia as yet, everyone waited for the deputy prime minister to approach today's realities and look to the future. Especially as at the beginning of his speech they heard the very promising sentence that scientific researchers had reached the stage of formation of a "solid residue"—specific advice and recommendations.

The "residue" was already known to the taste: In the opinion of the deputy prime minister, 89 Federation components is too many for Russia, and the territorial units must be amalgamated, at the same time "mixing in" the national principle. In this long process, there are the following paths to the objectives. The creation, for example, of structures of general federal services not in each oblast or republic but "in groups," which will lead to a reduction of the bureaucratic apparatus and, as Shakhray expressed it, will superimpose "a new matrix on the map of Russia." Support for regional economic associations in which the oblasts, dominating in economic relations, should play the role of locomotive will help the entry of new ideas in life. And local self-government should become the main strike force in the confirmation of the new structure of the Russian state—basically, it will take upon itself resolution of national problems and support for local ethnic groups.

S. Shakhray thinks that all these ideas should grow "from below" and transform Russia in a natural and nondirective way. But for the time being he admitted that he has not succeeded by any means in converting many of his colleagues to his own beliefs.

Sergey Mikhaylovich expressed a positive view on a no less vital question from the hall as elections of chiefs of administration in the regions: There must be elections. The constitution makes this obligatory. But he mentioned rather extended dates—after the middle of 1996. That is, as if "under a new president."

An obvious desire on the part of the deputy prime minister not to give the components of the Federation too much freedom was transparent in other expressions as well. In particular, he repeated more than once: Regional policy is not the policy of the regions, it is composed together.

Members of the congress listened to one more "voice from the top" with interest: L. Smirnyagin, a member of the Presidential Council of the Russian Federation and leader of the "Regionalistics" school of thought, presented a report on the "Regional Strategy of Russia (Fundamentals of the Idea)." He emphasized in his report that the work of scientists is to look ahead in order to prevent fires that the authorities will have to put out.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of division of labor that has set in recently: The politicians put out the fire with one hand, and pour fuel on it with the other. In this turmoil they are unable to hear what the theoreticians are saying.

Sverdlovsk Oblast Police Spokesman Cites Priority Needs

954F2000A Yekaterinburg OBLASTNAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Anatoliy Feokitistov, press secretary of the chief of the oblast UVD, under the rubric "Official": "Oblast UVD: Finances Call the Tune: Oblast UVD Collegium Introduces Extraordinary Financing Procedure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A regular meeting of the collegium of the UVD [Internal Affairs Administration], held under the chairmanship of Major General Vladimir Vorotnikov, was devoted to two burning questions: finances and improving the interaction of militia services in suppressing and solving crimes committed with the employment of firearms and explosives.**

Last year it was planned to receive 41 billion rubles [R] from the oblast budget to maintain the public safety militia (local militia), but only R30.5 was actually received. Of the R15 billion promised by the Duma necessary for the special-purpose financing of measures to strengthen law and order, R1.9 billion was received.

The criminal militia, which is financed from the federal budget, did not find itself in any better position. Last year R63.3 billion was received, 79 percent of the necessary amount.

Unstable and inadequate financing practically disrupted the implementation of social programs: Housing is built slowly, and since the summer of last year employee wages are not being indexed, indeed, their payment in a number of subunits is postponed on a regular basis. In addition, there is a strict limit on the issuance of gasoline for official vehicles, and there is no money to pay militia employees to compensate for work on days off and holidays.

In the opinion of the chief of the FEU [expansion unknown] of the oblast UVD, such an abnormal situation in financing internal affairs organs destabilizes their work. In particular, vehicles are already now laid up in some subunits because of lack of money to pay for gasoline, and clothing and arms are not being issued in full; moreover, there is a continuous increase in credit indebtedness for electric power, heating, communications services, and current and capital repairs. At the present time, the oblast internal affairs organs are in debt for these services to the tune of R10 billion.

The UVD collegium introduced an extraordinary procedure for financing and prioritizing in the expenditure of resources received, and a financial policy was recommended by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. First of all, money will be directed at wages, social payments, operational expenses, and motor vehicle maintenance.

As emphasized by Vladimir Vorotnikov, UVD chief, last year was extremely difficult for the Sverdlovsk militia financially, and this year will be even more difficult. This is why it is necessary to adhere strictly to priority directions in the expenditure of monetary resources and to use internal economic resources to the fullest, and there should also be an intensification of the demands on directors for violations of financial discipline.

Last year in the oblast 504 crimes were committed with the use of firearms and explosives. What is the militia doing to prevent them?

First, all owners of firearms are on the licensing-authorization system register. At the present time, internal affairs organs supervise 992 facilities for storage and use of firearms, in which there are concentrated 11,436 individual firearms, including 702 official firearms, 3,046 sports firearms, 228 hunting firearms, and 150 smoothbore firearms. There are 91,148 firearms owners on the militia register, with 115,987 individual firearms in personal use.

Two hundred and thirty-nine private guard and detective enterprises and security services that have firearms have been established in the oblast. Internal affairs organs regularly conduct checks on the reliability of the safekeeping and proper use of arms. Analysis of thefts shows that they were possible in 66 percent of cases because of a negligent attitude toward the storage of the arms.

Forty-five owners of firearms were held to account administratively for committing violations.

The preventive measures department is coordinating its work with the directorate for organized crime and criminal investigation. In particular, a system has been developed to monitor and check on those who submitted documents to acquire a license to engage in detective and guard activity. As a result of careful checks, 21 persons have been turned down in the issuance of licenses.

In its turn, the check on guard enterprises and firms showed that here also violations are being committed in the storage of arms. Thus, for example, the arms were removed from six firms and one bank until the defects were eliminated.

The public safety service, together with the Directorate for Organized Crime, criminal investigation, and employees of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, conducted more than 4,000 inspections for storing arms and explosives, as a result of which 485 different violations were disclosed. It should be noted that cases of theft at these facilities have not been registered since 1993.

Irkutsk Oblast Legislature's Activities Previewed

954F2015A Irkutsk VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Ivanov, deputy chairman of the Committee on Budget, Price Setting, and Financial-Economic and Tax Legislation of the Regional Parliament, by VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA observer Yuriy Pronin; place and date not given: "The Framework of the New Laws"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *On 15 March the regular, ninth session of the oblast Legislative Assembly will begin its work. VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA observer Yuriy Pronin speaks with the deputy chairman of the Committee on Budget, Price Setting, and Financial-Economic and Tax Legislation of the Regional Parliament, Aleksandr Ivanov.*

[Pronin] Aleksandr Arsenyevich, which laws have already been adopted and which ones will the deputies have to discuss so that all of your committee's activity will be regulated at the level of oblast legislation? In other words, has the legal foundation for economic reforms been prepared?

[Ivanov] The main thing is that the Charter, which is essentially the oblast constitution, has been approved and is already in effect. Now its basic provisions must be concretized in a series of laws, including economic ones. We adopted two of them which, in my view, are of fundamental significance in January and they have been signed by the governor. The first, "On the Tax System of Irkutsk Oblast," establishes an economic framework for taxpayers. Thus the total tax burden for the producers of goods, work, and services, that is, the majority of entrepreneurs, must not exceed 40 kopeks from each ruble of income. Subtracting all the federal taxes, because we cannot regulate them, we are left with 5-10 kopeks that go into either the local or the oblast budget. Thus the entrepreneur is left with 60 kopeks out of each ruble, which will make it possible for him to live not by increasing the production cost of goods, where all costs, including wages, are "driven," but from profit. This will affect the entire population, for with a reduction of the production cost the price of the commodity will decrease. Finally, Irkutsk Oblast so far is the only component of the Russian Federation that has established the economic framework for taxpayers, and this means that we have something like an offshore zone, a most favored nation status for business, and therefore many people are interested in the rayon and are beginning to open up their main accounts here.

True, at first these norms will have a negative effect on the local and oblast budgets because some of the taxes will fall within the new framework. But after approximately two years all small and medium-size business, under the influence of the relaxed tax climate, will come out of the "shadows," they will stop operating like butterflies that only live one day, they will be legalized, and they will begin to purchase real estate and fixed production capital, to put it simply—they will grow into businesses. As a result the temporary budget losses will be more than compensated for, the more so since the law "On the Tax System" says: If there is no money, property will be used as security.

The other law, "On the Budget Structure and the Budget Process in Irkutsk Oblast," establishes the procedure for construction of the region's budget system and regulates the activity of organs of state power and local self-government in the oblast for drawing up, discussing, approving, executing, and monitoring the execution of the budget. Incidentally, the oblast budget for 1995 was drawn up taking this law into account and complies with many of its provisions but still does not take into account the norms of the law "On the Tax System."

We are still missing two priority laws, first of all the law on property. Work on this is proceeding with great difficulty at the federal level and at our level. As is written in the Constitution and the Charter, property relations determine the economic basis of the country and the territory. Mentioned there are state, municipal, mixed, and private property. But there are no developed definitions. For example, what is state property? They used to say that it was the property of all the people. Of course it never was that, and far from everyone could use it. It is necessary to provide a definition of state property and indicate specifically who has operational, economic control of it. The same thing is true of other forms of property. Unless we resolve the fundamental issue—where and whose property?—we will be getting ahead of ourselves. For instance, on the plane of our assembly's work there is the law "On Property Management." But how can we manage it if we do not know what it is?

Then there is the law on land—what is land? The law on minerals—what are minerals? How many centimeters from the surface does the land go down and at what depth do minerals begin? Here we have adopted a Forest Code of Irkutsk Oblast but we have not determined on whose land the trees are growing. It turns out that one person may own the forest and somebody else may own the land underneath it. How can that be?

Another example. The section on land relations in the recently adopted first part of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation will take effect only with the adoption of the Land Code. It would be good if both federal codes and the law on property were written by the same developer or collective. And if they are different? There will inevitably be contradictions and disjointed parts. As for the oblast law on property, in the next few months I intend to prepare a working version of it.

And another law—on securities—will be the regulator of the stock market, and ours is ahead of the average Russian indicators in terms of level of development. Let me remind you that at the federal level there are only the president's edicts. Yet the object of regulation should be extremely broad—including stocks and bonds and lotteries. But so far Russian legislation is coming late, and good minds (Mavrodi and others) have become established in the rapidly emerging securities market while the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics, and the Central Bank have lost the reins of control and it is operating according to the principle of a self-consuming mechanism.

If during the year that remains before the elections the regional parliament succeeds in adopting laws on property and securities plus a not so complicated law on state and local nonbudget funds, our committee as a whole will have fulfilled the tasks facing it.

[Pronin] You mentioned nonbudget funds. To what extent is it guaranteed that they will be used for their intended purpose and that there are no possible financial leaks "to the outside"?

[Ivanov] As concerns the federal budget, it consolidates all funds. The exceptions at the oblast level are the pension fund and the social insurance fund. The majority of the rest (road fund, employment fund, mandatory medical insurance fund) will be on one line in the oblast budget, but it is possible to influence them only through control functions: how much has come in, gone out, and where. The ecology fund is to be placed in a subaccount of the oblast financial administration so that the managers of the fund will have to make preliminary applications to the administration for the withdrawal of any particular amount. And only after receiving the "okay" will they be able to take the money.

[Pronin] The session will be considering this year's oblast budget in the second reading. What are the basic principles of its construction?

[Ivanov] They were adopted back in September when, in particular, it was decided that the budget would be balanced and would not have a deficit. For we were living like this: We would include so many expenditures and then we would look for the money. Now we have agreed: Enough living according to expenditures, we have to live according to our income. However much money I have in my pocket, that is how much I will spend. Noninflationary sources for covering the deficit (for example, the oblast loans) are another matter, but they must be carefully calculated. As a basis for the revenue figures we have taken the actual execution of the 1994 budget and multiplied that by the inflation index of 1.34 suggested by the Ministry of Economics. In addition, in an item-by-item consideration we have managed to reveal supplementary sources of income.

At the next session it would be desirable to adopt it in its second and final reading since the rayons, in the absence of a law on the oblast budget, are being financed at the level of December 1994. Money has been devalued during this time and there is clearly not enough of it. It will be possible to smooth out certain rough spots during the course of the execution of the budget. Thus the adjustment will come somewhere at the beginning of the second half of the year, after the law on the federal budget has taken effect and the oblast laws on tax rates for profit, property, and land have been adopted.

[Pronin] Among the payers of taxes on profit and property and the transportation tax into the oblast budget—there are additions....

[Ivanov] Yes, we have added the joint-stock companies Kedr, Irkutskenergo, Vostsibugol, Irkutsknefteprodukt, and VSZhD. Why was that done? On the basis of the Civil Code, which gives a definition of the concept "legal entity," the tax inspectorate of the Russian Federation issued an instruction to all enterprises to close independent accounts of their structural subdivisions and create a consolidated account. Now each of the aforementioned associations has a consolidated balance sheet and a single working account in Irkutsk. Now, for instance, how will Zima or Tayshet or any rayon receive a share of the profit from the structural subdivisions of the head enterprises that are located on their territories? Only through the oblast budget. So the taxpayers have become oblast taxpayers. Indeed, if they were to be removed from the oblast budget, Irkutsk would gain certain advantages: The accounts of the head enterprises would be located here and all the taxes would go into the city tax inspectorate. But then who would support the other cities and rayons? What enterprises? They have paid their share. The mayor of Irkutsk? But he has no interest in this, the city has received his money—and that is the end of it. Therefore I am sure that the transfer of a group of taxpayers to the oblast budget is quite justified.

[Pronin] I recall that a year ago there were many arguments about the appearance of the term "price setting" in your committee's name. Possibly some people considered this an indicator of a deviation toward methods of a direct economy. It is now obvious that this did not happen and that prices are affected indirectly, for example, as we have already said, through taxes....

[Ivanov] Not only that. Why are we not giving the main oblast agricultural administration the R242 billion it is requesting for 1995? Because they are requesting the money for just one technological cycle: planting—harvest, raising young animals—slaughtering cattle. That is like feeding a glutton. As soon as the cattle are slaughtered, the state authorities lose direct control over prices. The dairy and the meat combine are joint-stock companies. They have already carried out privatization so that the state has no possibility of effectively influencing the processors of agricultural products. So they are buying meat in Holland or China but not in Russia. Consequently, they also "jack up" the procurement price. And when turning the final product over to trade, the commercial structure does not fail to "jack it up" even more. Everyone knows the result.

Therefore we are telling the agricultural administration and its chief, V.A. Berdnikov: Give us a program whereby you will create the entire chain of operations right up to the counter of the store inclusive, for both crop growing and animal husbandry. Money is needed to buy shares in a dairy and obtain a controlling block of shares there—if you want to create a bank where you would deposit your money through the budget as a basic package, with your own manager, and both the processors and trade would be "dragged in" as founders—go ahead, give us a program.

[Pronin] Did you find understanding?

[Ivanov] No. They are used to being given everything and that is all there is to it. And if you do not give it, they go away or reduce the amount. Hog raising is used as an example: The Chinese have been selling us inexpensive pork and our production has decreased threefold. And they are asking for a pile of money. But what will change because of this? The sovkhozes and kolkhozes have become nonstate enterprises (joint-stock companies, limited liability partnerships); conclude agreements with them, give them money on a repayable basis, even at a low interest rate. But now it is like this: You give it to them and they return nothing to you. What good is a system like that? Little by little the kolkhozes are creating their own creameries and meat plants, they are finding their own way to the market, without intermediaries. The time will come when the Main Agricultural Administration will be unnecessary. It is easier to bypass the Main Agricultural Administration and give the money locally, to the mayors. Knowing the situation in the rayons, they will work directly with the farms.

Ust-Orda Buryat Okrug Charter Viewed

954F2014A Irkutsk VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 95 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Golosov, VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA: "A Story with a Choice of a Subject"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The legislative assembly of the autonomous okrug adopted a draft okrug charter on the second reading. But not the last....*

It is hard work, let me tell you, to pull something out of the legal bog of the lawless Russian "behemoth." To draw up our legislation for cities and villages, for the capital and squatters' holdings. The 89 components of the Russian Federation in the best traditions of socialist competition are creating their own constitution-charters. They are writing a collective legal novel with their choice of a theme. Their "choice" not in the sense of being free from a literary source. This source or, rather, template is the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which you have to comply with whether you like it or not. Otherwise you may not enter the federal monastery with your charter. Your "choice" in the sense of expressing your own will and rights as a component of the Russian Federation. Is this the heat or the ecstasy of the charter campaign? There is a process of active legal delimitation of the territories. A process of separation of the regions from the lawless past, from federal power, from their neighbors. And this is "our special path" for entering the legal space. A purely Russian way of accumulating legal capital through the creation of "principalities," about which our president spoke at a recent conference in the Kremlin on problems of self-government.

But in the beginning was the word! The word of the president: Take as much sovereignty as you are able to swallow. And then came the process of swallowing, along with indigestion and belching. There is a clearly marked national syndrome in the current Russian environment. First of all we want to be nations and then citizens, Russians. The reason is simple: We are sick of being internationalist homo soveticus without kith or kin. The desire to be first among all whom God created is natural and laudable. But there is a danger of translating this desire into charter legislation, into creating priorities according to nationality. To the credit of the deputies of the okrug legislative assembly of the Duma, they have managed to overcome this danger. True, on the second attempt. Which certainly does not diminish their worth as deputies, which consists in listening, hearing, and acting sensibly. I am speaking about the delicate legal norm included in the draft charter in the first reading. I quote: "The change in the status and the name of the autonomous okrug and also its separation or unification with other components of the Russian Federation may be carried out only on the basis of the expression of the will of the majority of the population of the autonomous okrug, *including the majority of the citizens of the Buryat people residing in the okrug with the right to vote.*" (Emphasis mine—A.G.) In the updated version of the draft charter after the second reading the point cited above reads: *"A change in the status or name of the autonomous okrug shall be determined by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal constitutional law. The status of the okrug may not be changed without the consent expressed by the population of the okrug through an okrug referendum."*

After the first reading the text of the draft charter was sent to federal and oblast legal organs. Findings were received from them. The deputies considered the most persuasive arguments regarding the points cited above to be those of legal experts from the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law. *"There is hardly a need to emphasize the ethnic composition of the population of the okrug,"*—the Moscow legal experts write. *"According to the last census, the Buryat population make up 36 percent in the okrug. This means that according to the provision of the charter, 18 percent of the population of the okrug could veto the results of a referendum."* The deputies adopted the point in the new version by a majority of votes. But they could have left it in the previous version. The power was in their hands. And that would have been one of the most reliable levers for protecting the autonomy of the okrug, preserving the territory of immemorial habitation of the Angar Buryats, protection from separatist regionalizers who hope to separate from the okrug and join the oblast. This ferment was generated by the difficult economic situation, and joining the oblast will not essentially change it. The oblast is not the Arab emirates. And even with the current sovereignization, the okrug and the oblast will find new ways of consolidating means and forces for solving the food problem.

It is hard work to draw up a charter. Especially if it must comply with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Charter of Irkutsk Oblast and reflect one's own aspirations and ideas about rights and the law. And there is not a single legal expert among the deputies of the okrug Duma. For them this is like a campaign against legal illiteracy, literally burrowing through the legal debris to common sense. It might seem to those uninitiated into the work of the Duma that there is complete division of labor here. The legal experts prepare the laws and the deputies merely vote, giving the laws legitimacy. But in fact it is not that easy or simple. This is shown by the fact that the second reading of the draft charter took more than five hours. Even though between the two readings the text was worked on by a work group, a Duma commission, and a consolidated commission which included eminent public figures, workers of law enforcement organs, and representatives of the intelligentsia. In my notebook I have noted a dozen or so points on which the deputies' debates were especially heated.

It was written in the previous text of the draft: "Minerals, forests, and water... are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the okrug." But yet natural resources are federal property. What kind of "exclusivity" for the okrug as the owner is this? The deputy from Osa, chief of the rayon administration Yu.B. Borokhoyev, rejected this exclusivity. *"Now the entrepreneurs,"* Yuriy Borisovich said, *"are trying to get licensed outside the okrug and then demanding rights to our natural resources."* And in order to protect the okrug's natural resources, an additional point was included in the charter which speaks of the joint jurisdiction of the okrug and the Federation over local minerals, forests, and water. But the okrug will have the right to the first signature according to the charter.

A lively discussion with the participation of those who were invited arose when discussing the chapter of the draft charter on the legislative branch, the name of the okrug, the number of deputies who could be elected to achieve real separation of powers, and the term for which the chiefs of administrations at all levels could be elected. The deputies agreed that the okrug's legislative orgah should be called the Duma. The people had christened it that long ago. It is shorter and more expressive. The deputies could not reach a unanimous opinion on the number of members of the Duma. There are now 15 of them. Three from each of three rayons and two from each of three others—in proportion to the number of voters. The less-populated rayons—Nukutskiy, Osinskiy, and Bayandayevskiy—demanded the same deputy representation in the okrug Duma as the others. The conclusion was simple, like the truth: Two deputies from Bayanday would never "win" over three from Bokhan in a battle for budget support for the rayons. It is more advantageous for rayons with a large number of residents to have per capita budget provision. But the three rayons insisted on equal and fair distribution of funds. Perhaps three aymaks could be created out of the six rayons. After all, they existed at one time. And the rayons were located in pairs as if they were regarded as single territories. With the establishment of local self-government, the role of the rayon centers will become weaker.

How does one achieve a real separation of powers? Obviously, every deputy must occupy one seat—the deputy seat. With the present composition of the okrug Duma the majority of deputies are occupying two seats, and seven of the 15 are workers of the executive branch. Such "Siamese twins" are found in our legislative organs—from federal to regional. The official incompatibility of the majority of deputies with legislative work on a permanent basis has created a problem in the formation of the apparatus of the Assembly. And in order to avoid this problem in the future the elected deputies will be obliged to resign from their administrative positions. Administration chiefs at all levels will be elected for four years and for no more than two terms. The deputy from Bokhan, V.G. Maleyev, suggested that the chiefs of rayon and rural administrations be elected for an indefinite period of time, without restrictions on terms. The deputies rejected this suggestion out of fear of stagnation among the leaders. There is a new norm in the okrug charter as compared to the oblast one: The right to legislative initiative is granted to the okrug procuracy and the okrug court... "regarding questions under their jurisdiction."

The process of creating the law, as they say, is underway. But, unfortunately, not among the people. Residents of the okrug, by the admission of the chairman of the permanent commission on legislation and legal questions of the okrug Duma, A.P. Khorinoyev, are indifferent to the discussion of the draft charter, it is all the same to them. Do they not recognize the document's significance in the life of the okrug? Or do they not believe that it is to be taken seriously and over the long run? A.K. Frolov, a deputy of the state Duma, visited the okrug recently at the invitation of local party members. He promised that if communists were to come to power, "everything would take a 180-degree turn," including local legislation. And everyone would have "equal rights" again. And as we know, equal rights themselves—mean no rights at all....

Economic Issues

FITUR Explains Reasons for Trade Union Protest

MM1204090595 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia Information Center report: "Tomorrow Is the Trade Unions' United Action Day: The Authorities Have Gone Bankrupt, While the Working People Have Found Themselves in a Debt Trap"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What has prompted the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] General Council Executive Committee's decision on the second stage of collective actions, whose initiator is the Association of Trade Unions of the Defense Sectors of Industry?

Neither the president nor the government of the Russian Federation has taken measures capable of ending the long delays in paying wages, securing employment for the population, or preventing the decline in working people's standard of living. The arrears in wages had increased by 1.4 trillion rubles [R] by the start of March, topping R5.6 trillion. Around 38,000 enterprises have failed to pay their workers for the work they have done. At many of these enterprises workers have not been paid for three to five or even more months.

The purchasing power of wages continues to decline. The rise in consumer prices in January-March alone was 40 percent, while the expected increase in the average wage during that same period will not exceed 8-10 percent. The decision of the State Duma and the Federation Council to increase the size of the minimum wage and the minimum pension for workers has been blocked by the Russian Federation president. More than 47 million Russians have incomes below the subsistence level.

The employment situation is getting worse. There are now more than 10 million people who are completely or partially unemployed. The number of jobs fell by 3.6 million last year. There are six people competing for every job in Russia as a whole, while in certain cities and settlements there are 150 to 200 jobseekers for every job. More than half the unemployed have had this status for more than four months.

Given such a critical socioeconomic situation in the country, the FITUR leadership has sent a letter to the president, the Federal Assembly, and the Government of the Russian Federation. It lays out the trade union center's position regarding the situation in the country and explains the aims of the Russia-wide protest action planned by trade unions.

As far as the form taken by the Day of United Russia-wide Collective Actions on 12 April 1995 is concerned, the FITUR General Council Executive Committee has given member organizations the right to choose. Rallies, demonstrations, and picketing of the buildings of heads of administration will take place. The trade unions of the Altay and Maritime Krays will stage warning strikes.

So tomorrow the working people of Russia will loudly proclaim:

No to antisocial policy!

Reforms in the interests of working people!

[Signed] FITUR Information Center

Progress Seen in Move To Settle Nonpayments, Pay Wages

MM1104154795 Moscow TRUD in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by TRUD political commentator Vitaliy Golovachev under the "Behind Closed Doors" rubric: "If You Owe Money, You Should Pay Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ask the first person you meet about the country's most acute problems, and he will certainly not forget to mention nonpayments and delayed wages. The other day the government commission on nonpayments held a session behind closed doors. Contrary to the established tradition there were no journalists there. There was some tough talking at the session, about which I managed to find out certain details.

The commission's new chairman, First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, conducted the session. Oleg Soskovets, whose influence has not just in my view declined recently, was replaced by him in this difficult area by a decision of the premier....

Chubays conducted the session in a pushy, energetic, and tough manner. The situation in Maritime Kray's coal enterprises was also discussed.

Why have the miners not been paid for four months now? It emerged that it was not the federal budget that was to blame for this, but the coal consumers who had not settled their accounts with the miners. But who are these consumers? It is no secret that they are first and foremost in the power engineering sector, the Russian Joint-Stock Company "Yedinaya Energosisteina" (RAO YeES). Incidentally, the government has the controlling block of shares in the Russian Joint-Stock Company. The situation is ridiculous—within a single power industry comprising both the coal and power- engineering industries, the leaders are unable to get mutual settlements in order.

In this connection, Chubays made strong complaints against the leaders of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the RAO YeES, even stating that the minister and other officials are not quite up to the offices they hold. But the strongest thing he said was—"This looks like sabotage," which, it seems, particularly hurt the pride of those being subjected to criticism. Will this, perhaps, "irritate" other ministers?

Serious questions also arose for the power structures in the Far Eastern regions to answer. Why did they waste money buying coal from China and Australia at higher prices than in Russia? The first vice premier has instructed the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Federal Security Service to carry out an investigation....

The fact that V. Chernomyrdin gave the finance minister instructions to begin paying off debts to the defense complex is evidence of the increased attention the government is paying to the problem of unpaid wages. A sum of 200 billion rubles [R] is to be allotted 10 April, then the payments will continue according to a special schedule. According to one set of statistics, the total debt to the defense sector is around R900 billion, but according to others it is much greater. Instructions have been given to carry out strict checks so that the money is not "frittered away" on all kinds of "urgent needs," but is targeted on wages.

The government is searching for ways to solve another current problem—how to settle up with the teachers. They are not owed a ruble from the Federal Budget at present. Some 80 percent of payments to teachers come from regional budgets, but there too the financial situation is very fraught....

One other piece of news. The Cabinet of Ministers has sent its proposals to the State Duma on indexing unpaid wages and increasing the liability of officials for delays. The purpose is clear: Due to inflation unpaid money rapidly "shrivels up," therefore the government is proposing to increase the sum at the same rate as the banks levy when providing credit. This is fair.

The liability of leaders for not paying wages on time will also be increased. Quite a few cases have recently been brought to light of directors "dragging their feet," holding back wages, and earning interest on them. Severe penalties, including criminal liability, are envisaged for deliberate delays.

At this, perhaps, most difficult period of reforms we should try to keep the delicate social peace, without which it is impossible to move forward. It seems that the government is beginning to operate, albeit belatedly, in accordance with this very logic.

Economics Minister on Coal Miner Strike in Primorye

LD0604185695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 6 (Interfax)—Russian Economy Minister Yevgeniy Yasin has said that the coal-miner strike, which was launched in Primorye (Russian Far East) is caused not by non-payments from the state budget to them, but exclusively by non- payments on the part of consumers.

The Minister said in Moscow on Thursday, in an interview with Interfax, that the Cabinet will put pressure on coal consumers to pay up.

According to Yasin, many consumers of coal have money on their accounts, however, they are not in a hurry to pay suppliers.

Answering the question whether a special government commission will be sent to the Primorye Territory, Yasin said that "even if another commission, which has no ready solutions, comes to the region, this will produce no results."

Yasin promised that the Cabinet will look for an opportunity to assert real influence on coal consumers to lift tensions in Primorye.

Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, in an interview with Interfax, confirmed that the money from the budget targeted to the coal miners has been transferred to them. He said that the Finance Ministry does not finance individual coal fields or pits, it earmarks necessary sums for the industry. Panskov said that the 2 trillion rubles owed to the coal miners from the beginning of the year, have been set aside. Before the end of the year 7.5 trillion rubles will be transferred from the budget to coal miners.

Chubays Criticizes Maritime Leaders Over Coal Miners

LD0804185895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0710 GMT on 8 April carries the regularly scheduled Saturday conversation with Anatoliy Chubays, Russian first vice prime minister. The 10-minute program is hosted by Mayak observer Vladimir Savchenko.

Talking about the miners' strike in the Far East, Chubays first points out that the problem of the Maritime Territory strikers has no direct bearing on the federal budget. Ninety-five percent of the problem in Maritime Territory is that the electric power generators have run up a very large debt with the coal miners, which is why the coal miners in Maritime Territory are in such a serious situation. The rates charged for electricity in the Maritime Territory are 20 times lower than in other Russian regions. No economic system is capable of sustaining such artificially low charges, which in the end have to be compensated from the federal budget.

Chubays says another aspect of this matter is the "strange conduct," of the Maritime Kray leaders. According to information from the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Internal Affairs Ministry, it was reported at the sitting of the commission for non-payments that a considerable share of the funds from the federal budget went to the Maritime Territory and were earmarked to support the coal miners. However, this money was used to purchase coal from China instead of giving it to the coal miners, who are in a very difficult situation. Moreover, the coal was purchased at prices higher than inside the country and turned out to be of such poor quality that it was almost unsuitable for practical use. No one was punished for this, neither Governor Nazdratenko nor his aides. Chubays says: "We will not leave this situation like this. We will bring this matter to a conclusion. All of who are guilty will be named and punished for everything they have done."

Chubays says that meanwhile the leaders of the Maritime Territory, opposing the government and everything under the sun, are calling on the residents to block the Transsib, stage actions of disobedience to the federal authorities, and point the finger at Moscow, which is to blame for everything. He says there is an attempt to play their own political preelection gam. He says: "Therefore, on Monday [10 April], on my direct decision and supported by the chairman of the government, a government delegation will fly to the Maritime Teritory. The delegation will be headed by Shafranik, minister of fuel and power engineering, who will get to the bottom of the situation on the spot, in a detailed an meticulous way. They will discuss the decisions we made here, including the decisions made at the conference I attended, and will analyze everthing done by the local authorities." He concludes: "Representatives of the general procuracy will be involved in this work without fail."

Government Blames Shafranik for Coal Industry Crisis

LD0504171895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 5 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The Russian Government said Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and his deputies were to blame for the crisis in the coal industry where miners have been staging numerous protests and hunger strikes of late because of wage arrears.

TASS learned from government sources Wednesday that the commission which works to improve the settlement system and which is headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays ruled at its meeting that Shafranik was personally responsible for the crisis.

The reason for that is, most evidently, the huge debt of energy producers to coal miners.

Deputy Head of the Federal Department for Bankruptcies Petr Karpov told reporters after the meeting that in the Far East, where several coal miners have been already hospitalised after a hunger strike, the acute situation was caused by huge debts of local energy producers. "The major consumers of the coal - the Far Eastern energy producers - do not pay to miners in principle", he said. The Russian central energy-producing organisation was accused of complete incompetence. "It does not absolutely control these issues", according to Karpov.

"We shall try to pay the miners from the federal budget, but the main task is to make the energy producers pay their debts to coal miners", Karpov added.

The situation in the coal industry "has relatively normalised", he said, but admitted that in several regions "it sharply differs from the average one".

Shafranik Comments on Far East Coal Industry 'Crisis'

LD1004080395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0636 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Ivantsov and Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 10 TASS—The Federal Energy Commission meets today to decide on the provision of more than 200 billion roubles for the miners of the Far Eastern Maritime Territory.

According to the Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik, the decision is intended to alleviate the acuteness of the crisis in the coal industry of the Maritime Territory.

According to Shafranik, one of the causes of the crisis was the preservation of low electricity rates in the region. In order to compensate the region for its spending on the production of energy resources and generation of electricity, it was decided to allocate some 850 billion roubles a year to the enterprises of the fuel and energy sector.

However, the minister said, the allocation resources do not reach the territory as scheduled. To make the matters worse, the decision on the low rates of payment for electricity failed to prevail the growth of outstanding debts. The consumers now owe power generators more than 600 billion roubles, which makes it impossible for the latter to pay their debts to the miners.

The minister believes that the situation can be rectified if subsidies are channelled to specific addresses.

The ministry has developed a special programme for the development of the region's fuel base. It provides for a considerable expansion of the capacities of the Uragal-Luchegorsk coalfield and a number of small and medium-sized coal deposits in the next year or two in order to reduce to the minimum the import of fuel to these regions from farther afield.

State To Sell Oil Company Stock To Boost Budget Revenues

MK1104123595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The State Reduces Its Share of Oil Companies' Stock"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government may start to "dilute" the state share in oil companies and joint stock companies in the fuel and energy sphere as a way to increase budget revenues. State blocks of stock can be reduced to 25 percent, which should ensure minimum guarantees for the federal authorities to influence decisions by fuel and energy companies. The remaining part can be sold to Russian or foreign investors through the system of investment auctions and tenders. Yuriy Shafranik noted that, in selling stocks, it is necessary to use the experience of Lukoil, which offered bonds backed by its state-owned shares: "This will not mean that the stocks will immediately be taken away from the hands of the state, and at the same time will it make it possible to see whether a company is capable of earning money for itself and for the state, by seeing what happens to the price of its shares." The head of the Fuel and Energy Ministry believes that an enterprise should receive "a substantial percentage" from the sale of its stock in order to secure investments for production development.

A number of experts with the securities market and Russia's major investment companies have questioned the very possibility of "a mass sale of shares from the state block of stock in oil companies beginning in 1995."

Chernomyrdin Cited on Right To Own Land

LD0504184895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 5 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Filatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The Russian Government will submit to parliament by May 1 lawbills on land mortgage and on the registration of the right to own land, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Wednesday [5 April]. He added that it is also planned to allow to sell plots of land occupied and owned by enterprises.

"Land reform in Russia should go on", Chernomyrdin told a meeting of Russian farmers and peasants. "Certificates on land ownership will be issued to all land owners, land auctions will be held in various regions of the country", he added.

The premier also promised that the government would work to convince local authorities, which banned privatised enterprises from buying out buildings and land leased by them, to lift the restrictions.

The prime minister said it was necessary to amend the taxation system regarding producers because, according to him, it "stangles them" instead of stimulating.

Spring Sowing Campaign Encounters Serious Problems

LD0504200695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 5 (Interfax)—In view of a dire shortage of finances and equipment, the Russian agri-industrial complex "will fulfil not more than 60 percent of the agro-technical requirements during this year's sowing campaign," Russia's Minister for Agriculture and Food Aleksandr Nazarchuk told the all-Russia farmers' conference in Moscow on Wednesday.

He said that the Russian farmers had never started spring sowing campaigns so poorly equipped.

Whereas the stock of seeds is sufficient, the amount of diesel fuel and gasoline stands at only 50 percent of the actual need, he said. "At best, slightly over 2 million tonnes of mineral fertilizers will be applied against 13 million tonnes applied in previous years," he added.

The main cause of the current problems is "financial problems" and insolvency of the agricultural producers, whose debt on credit interests amounts to almost 14 trillion rubles.

Nazarchuk told Interfax that he doubted that the schedule of the sowing campaign would be observed.

Chubays Cited on Documents Regulating Finance Companies

MM0504160495 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview Russian First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays by Andrey Nemayskiy; place and date not given: "Fence Needed for Field of Wonders"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The government is preparing new normative documents regulating the activity of financial companies. The new procedure should protect investors' rights," stated Anatoliy Chubays, first vice premier of the Russian Federation Government.

[Nemayskiy] Today there is a lot of talk about the government's tough line in the finances sphere....

[Chubays] Why talk? There are also real steps. The government has submitted to the president an edict drastically restricting the opportunities of the government itself in using the budget. All decisions here can be made only by the president itself. We ourselves have as it were limited our own powers. We submitted proposals to the president on the complete repeal of all concessions in foreign economic activity. As we know, this was a feeding trough in which trillions of rubles were swallowed up. In some places these concessions were justified, in others not. Believe me, such decisions are not made easily. But the president understood and supported us and signed very important documents. We thus began introducing order with ourselves. Then there will be tougher control at federal and regional level.

[Nemayskiy] Finances are not only the federal budget. Local authorities are activating their financial policy—municipal loans, housing certificates, and so forth. In a number of cities, readers report, these securities are not backed up by anything. How can the population's money be protected?

[Chubays] A tough procedure is needed which would contain rules for the issue of securities that are the same for all, a procedure for their distribution, and, most important, the liability of those who issue them. That is precisely what we are working on. A federal commission for securities and the stock market has been created under the Russian Federation Government. The following procedure is already operating for municipal loans—loans must be registered at the Ministry of Finances and the volume of the emission and the deadline for floating them are clearly defined. The federal commission is now developing the procedure for the issue and floating of housing loans. The main requirement is that investors' rights should be reliably protected.

[Nemayskiy] The inhabitants of many cities, particularly large cities like Nizhniy Novgorod and Volgograd where financial companies are working actively, attracting the population's money, are encountering a situation in which the companies do not have the relevant authorization or licenses.

[Chubays] All these companies—large, all-Russian ones, although many are not situated in Moscow, appeared in a period when legislation in this sphere of activity was very feeble. Some people tried to work honestly. Some people exploited the weaknesses of legislation. The situation cannot be put right now in an hour. The government federal commission for securities is carrying out a detailed analysis of the financial documents of companies of this kind. A unified organizational and legal form is being developed. It is known throughout the world—open-type mutual investment funds. We need a law which regulates the activity of such companies. And while the edict is being prepared we shall give a deadline in it within which companies will either have to transform themselves into this new form with the relevant responsibility or cease their existence. Now we have the transitional period—temporary authorization has already lost its strength and there are not yet any permanent forms of authorization. Of course the result is not very healthy....

[Nemayskiy] All this is resulting in hard experiences for investors. In some cities, in Volgograd for instance, people are besieging local leaders. How are we to act here, how are we to reassure people? Perhaps we should simply suspend the financial companies' activity for a while?

[Chubays] That means destroying those companies. And correspondingly putting millions of people who entrusted their money to them in a hard situation. No, I think we do not need such decisions. I repeat, the edict is being prepared intensively. We are creating a new procedure, introducing it, and we shall force all organizations in the securities market to follow it. The government says: If you want to take the population's money and people are prepared to trust you and hand over their money—then do it but do it within the procedure laid down by the state. A violation of this procedure will be punished very severely and strictly. Here the population may be assured that we are on their side.

Yasin Announces Customs Duty Reductions

MM0604103095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 1

[Report from roundup of RIA NOVOSTI, POSTFACTUM, and ITAR-TASS reports: "Customs Duties Will Be Reduced"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The level of customs duties for almost all types of consumer goods will be reduced and set within the limit of 30 percent, Yevgeniy Yasin, Russian Federation Minister of the economy, said in a talk with journalists.

The size of the duty on food goods will remain at the present level but a 5 percent customs levy will be set for those foods on which duty was not levied before, the minister noted. Yevgeniy Yasin also announced that there would be exceptions for alcoholic drinks, tobacco articles, and luxury items for which no reduction in customs duties is planned. "There will be no duty-free goods," Yevgeniy Yasin stated, but he did not cite a specific date for the introduction of the changes, noting that the government will continue to avoid major changes in import policy.

Investment Fund Sells 280 Million Shares to U.S. Company

LD1104131995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 BUSINESS-TASS—A U.S. corporation, Pioneer Group Inc., has struck a deal with Russia's First Investment Fund (FIF) to buy 280 million of its shares, BUSINESS-TASS was told in the corporations's Moscow office.

Aside from the shares, Pioneer Group Inc., which is active in Russia since 1991, is buying the Russian company Kuif which has a say in the control of the FIF's investment and share placement, and a licence for banking and broker operations.

This ever-largest deal with a Russian investment fund entitles Pioneer to 30 percent of the fund's declared or 51 percent authorised capital.

The FIF now has more than four million shareholders. The fund's portfolio is made of shares in profitable factories in the petrochemical and food sectors, and in municipal property. The fund has stakes in Moscow's hotels "Cosmos" and "Na Tverskoi" (the former "Minsk").

The new co-owner of the fund, the Boston-based Pioneer Group Inc., controls an 11 billion dollar worth of assets worldwide.

The corporation recently has boosted its operations in central and eastern Europe.

Chairman of the FIF's Board of Directors Mikhail Kharshan said in an interview with BUSINESS-TASS that the fund's goals are to attract and efficiently handle investment, and put on the track long-term programmes for asset price growth.

The high image of Pioneer will help the fund and its shareholders reach these goals, Kharshan said.

Banks' Loan-for-Equity Project Said Taken Seriously

MK1204103995 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 24, 9-16 Apr 95 (Signed to press 11 Apr 95) p 7

[Report by Vladimir Loyevetskiy under the "Rumors" rubric: "Banks' Project Taken Seriously"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An initiative by several major Russian banks, which offered the government a loan in exchange for the right to manage some state-owned blocks of shares, has received an interesting follow-up.

The intrigue derives from rumors that sprang up immediately afterward: First, that far from all the banks announced as participants in the newly created consortium are actually seeking membership in it. Second, that apart from managing state-owned blocks of shares, the consortium also wants to manage the Russian Federation Sberbank [Savings Bank]. Finally, another group of influential banks has come forward with a statement, making it clear to the consortium that it is "thinking too much" about itself.

Such persistent rumors can hardly be regarded as a complete surprise: On the contrary, their absence would rather have indicated that the first large-scale project on cooperation between the state and the banks was not being taken seriously. Now it is clear that it has indeed been "taken" properly, including by its participants themselves, among whom there proved to be no "refuseniks" after all.

For instance, the "Imperial" bank, which waited for some time before making a definitive decision, has confirmed its participation. Another large bank, "Vozrozhdeniye," has officially decided to join in the fray. Leaders of the "Rossiyskiy Kredit" bank (the country's fifth largest bank in terms of reserves), whose wary reaction the press has had time to quote, clarified that they are not opposed to the project at all, but that they see this initiative as "extremely interesting:" "Our natural place is among consortium members."

It also turned out that for all the large-scale nature of the project, no encroachments have been made on Sberbank's shares. It was also asserted that the consortium members allegedly requested in their letter to the government that, on top of everything else, they be given as much as 51 percent of Sberbank's shares. Officials in the government apparatus said that they were hearing about that for the first time, while the banks countered that they had not written anything of the sort. Presumably, they have indeed not done so, even if they might have dreamed about it: The display of such appetites would have turned out badly for any Gargantuan contender, who could easily be discredited in such a situation. Actually, this rumor actually smacks of a ham-handed attempt to do so.

Finally, according to another report "leaked" the press, the consortium has encountered a negative reaction from another influential group of banks. No sooner had it submitted its project to the government meeting on 30 March when it became clear that large banks associated with the "Nadezhnost" club had sent an appeal to the government of their own. However, that appeal contained only general—albeit quite reasonable—suggestions and expressed their readiness for "active cooperation with government structures." There were no signs that the appeal was made "to spite" the consortium, but it was portrayed precisely this way. Confusion dissipates, however, when one learns that this appeal was issued back on 13 March, that is, not as "an answer to Chamberlain" at all. It was unearthed in this capacity only after the consortium's plans were made public.

Presently these plans—already specified—are under consideration by the government. The business part is still ahead. And what about the "game" part? Are the banks really split or is it just an attempt to create the semblance of a split? If the project does not materialize for business reasons, well, only practice makes perfect, there will be no tragedy at all. Just as there will be no tragedy if, following a positive decision, some banks are involved in the project with their resources and interests, while others think that their money should be made and spent in a different fashion. But if serious cracks appear in the community of major banks—on the eve of elections at that—the banks will almost certainly be dragged into political games the consequences of which will be most unfavorable both for them and for the economy.

Report Assesses Russian Aluminum Output

MS1204085595 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 12 Apr 95 p 31

[Report by Kenneth Gooding: "No Change Forecast For CIS Aluminium"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian aluminium output is likely to be 2.7m tonnes this year, only 25,000 tonnes more than in 1994, according to the Brook Hunt metals consultancy group. Production in the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole is predicted to remain at about last year's level of 3m tonnes.

Brook Hunt has revised down its estimates for CIS aluminium consumption for 1995. It suggests domestic demand will be only 560,000 tonnes in spite of the attempts to encourage more exports of semi-fabricated products from Russia.

As recently as 1991, Brook Hunt points out in its latest FSU (former Soviet Union) Aluminium Report, demand in the CIS was more than 2.3m tonnes.

The report predicts there will this year be a sharp rise in CIS production of alumina, the raw material for aluminium. In the first quarter of 1995 output jumped by 10 per cent, putting it on target for 4.4m tonnes for the whole year compared with less than 4m in 1994. This was achieved even though there were technical problems at the large (1m tonnes a year) Nikolaev alumina refinery in the Ukraine. These are not thought to be so serious as to cause losses of more than 50,000 tonnes this year.

This improvement in the CIS alumina industry's fortunes may result from a government scheme to revive output by requiring smelters to take more of their requirements from domestic refineries.

International Affairs

Udovenko Previews President Clinton's Visit to Ukraine

LD1104195295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1415 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—A group of senior U.S. State Department officials is expected in Ukraine to finalize the program of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Ukraine, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told a briefing on 11 April.

He said Clinton and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma will sign a joint statement on progress in the implementation of agreements signed during Kuchma's visit to the United States.

According to the Ukrainian foreign minister, the United States has agreed to use Ukrainian space launch vehicles for commercial satellite launching. Ukraine has proposed an agreement to this effect which will be signed during Clinton's visit to Kiev. The document will specify Ukrainian-American cooperation in this field.

Envoy to U.S., 'Influential' Senator Discuss 'Urgent' Aid

WS1004103195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press center reported on Friday, April 7, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Yuriy Shcherbak met in Washington, D.C., with Senator Mitchell McConnell, chairman of the foreign allocation [as received], to discuss possibilities and likely forms of U.S. urgent financial aid to Ukraine to bridge the latter's balance of payment deficit gap.

The Ukrainian envoy informed the influential U.S. lawmaker about the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada's [Supreme Council] resolution to approve the national budget for 1995 which is Ukraine's sine qua non to secure the multibillion loan from IMF and G-7.

Mr. Shcherbak also informed the U.S. senator about the tenets of President Kuchma's recent speech to the Ukrainian parliament.

The meeting is reported to have been attended by experts with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Kiev Asks U.S. Congress To Speed Bilateral Accords Debate

LD1104181795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 11 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko has asked visiting Deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott to help speed up Congressional debate on bilateral accords, including an agreement on investment protection.

The three-hour talks with Talbott on Monday covered possible NATO expansion, Kiev's involvement in the NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace program, President Bill Clinton's coming visit to Ukraine and the Crimean crisis, Udovenko told reporters in Kiev Tuesday.

He denied that Washington had offered brokerage in resolving the Crimean problem, adding that Kiev was in no need of international help on the issue.

But the minister admitted to the existence of increased international attention to the regional crisis.

On Crimean Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov's current visit to Moscow, he said he would have preferred Tsekov to be in Kiev because the dispute was Ukraine's internal affair.

Udovenko pointed to acute water shortages on the peninsula calling on journalists to focus more on economic issues instead.

Decree Detailing Implementation of U.S. Treaty

WS0704134595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0221 GMT 4 Apr 95

["Complete translation" of decree issued by acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, providing a plan for implementing the U.S.-Ukrainian Friendship and Cooperation Treaty signed by President Leonid Kuchma in Washington in November 1994, in Kiev on 22 March—from the "On the Books" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE
Resolution March 22 1995 no. 166-r Kiev

On adoption of an Action Plan regarding the implementation of agreements between Ukraine and the United States, according to the results of President Leonid Kuchma's visit to the United States on November 19-23, 1994 (enclosed).

Ministries and institutions should provide realization of the Action Plan within set schedules.

[Signed] Acting Prime Minister of Ukraine Y. Marchuk

PLAN OF MEASURES

Regarding the realization of agreements between Ukraine and the United States, according to the results of President Leonid Kuchma's visit to the United States on November 19-23, 1994.

Documents for realization: The joint statement of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and United States President William J. Clinton on the Ukrainian-American Charter on partnership, friendship and cooperation.

Measures:

1. To sustain permanent bilateral contacts at the high level.

2. To take measures to approve and organize an official visit of President Clinton to Ukraine.

3. To continue regular consultations with the State Department of the United States on international problems and problems of bilateral cooperation.

4. To organize working meetings for foreign departments' chairs of Ukraine and the United states to discuss concrete problems of bilateral cooperation.

5. To use a principally new situation in bilateral relations with the United States to strengthen the international image of Ukraine, namely to set relations with neighboring countries.

6. To cooperate more actively with U.S. representatives to the United Nations Organization and to other organizations to provide for the political and economic interests of Ukraine.

7. To continue the work to strengthen guarantees given to Ukraine by the United States and member countries of the UN Security Council regarding Ukrainian national security.

8. To work out and submit to the government a program of preparation of servicemen of the Defense Ministry in accordance with the international program for education and preparation of military personnel.

9. To encourage the exchange of information and experience in the sphere of export control, as a wide-scale realization of a Ukrainian-American agreement on giving Ukraine help in the export control sphere.

10. To provide the implementation of agreements on giving financial and technical aid to Ukraine from the United States to eliminate strategic nuclear arms from the help, given by the United States to Ukraine for 1995 financial year (Nunn-Lugar).

11. To encourage receipt of financial aid from 14 countries for disarmament.

12. To agree on conditions of receiving funds the United States may allot according to the Partnership for Peace program; to provide works, connected with allotment of a part of these funds to Ukraine.

13. To provide consultations with the United States, regarding Ukraine's participation in the Regime to Control Missile Technologies (RCMT) and in COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] successor organizations; to conduct corresponding talks with the RCMT delegation.

14. To widen the programs of military contacts aimed at giving Ukraine aid in its efforts to reform military institutions and to introduce conversion in the defense industry.

15. To hold the second sitting of the Ukrainian-American committee on conversion in the Ukrainian defense industry.

16. To speed up the beginning of activities of the Scientific and Technological Center in Ukraine that will be financed by the United States and other donor countries (Canada, Sweden).

17. To provide joint plans for training of Ukrainian Armed Forces with NATO forces and U.S. military troops in the framework of the Partnership for Peace program.

18. To work out a question about giving technical aid (special weapons, vehicles, technical equipment) to the Internal Affairs Ministry of Ukraine and other law enforcement bodies.

19. To work out propositions to set cooperation with the United States in converting missile equipment for peaceful space technologies.

20. To provide purposeful financing of the first stage of devising and creation of a network to collect diagnostic data on the physiological state of Man for use in a program of telemedicine.

21. To devise and introduce the following environmental programs:

a) Improvement of water quality in Kaniv water storage pond (with the support from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency);

b) Public concern (creation of ecology-oriented programs on TV);

c) Laboratory for ecological monitoring (with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency);

d) Strengthening of local governing of the environment in Donetsk oblast (the financing of which is to be covered by the World Bank Institutional Development Fund);

e) Strengthening of the Ukrainian-American center for ecological education and information;

f) Monitoring system;

g) Preservation of biological diversity.

22. To promote receipt of previously announced economic and technical aid from the United States in the amount of $200 million.

23. To promote fulfillment of obligations of the United States to give Ukraine economic aid (in time frames given by the United States government for 1994 in the amount of $350 million).

24. To promote adoption of a decision by the United States Congress to give Ukraine the status of a country with a transitional economy and to make some changes

in the trade legislation of the United States to stop anti-dumping procedures against goods produced in Ukraine.

25. To promote continuation of cooperation with the United States, regarding the plan of activities that was adopted by G-7 in Naples, under condition of receiving by Ukraine an adequate financial and technical aid from G-7 and solving the problem of the Chernobyl nuclear plant shutdown.

26. To provide active cooperation with the United States to liquidate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular the cleanup operation in the contaminated regions and strengthening of safety in Ukrainian nuclear plants.

27. To work out with the United States a program of further help from the United States aimed at speeding up economic reform in Ukraine.

28. To conduct works among governmental circles, diplomatic workers in Ukraine and foreign communities, explaining the importance of the Ukrainian-American agreements.

29. To prepare for the President of Ukraine information about realization of the measures and for signing the documents during the U.S. President's visit.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Foreign Ministry and the presidential administration (schedule: ongoing)

2. The Foreign Ministry, the Ukrainian Embassy to the United States and the presidential administration (schedule: 1995)

3. The Foreign Ministry (schedule: 1995)

4. The Foreign Ministry (schedule: first and third quarters of 1995)

5. The Foreign Ministry (schedule: ongoing)

6. The Foreign Ministry, with the Ukrainian representatives to New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris (schedule: 1995)

7. The Foreign Ministry (schedule: ongoing)

8. The Defense Ministry (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

9. The Foreign Ministry, Foreign Trade Ministry, Expert- Technical Committee and the State Customs Committee (schedule: 1995)

10. The Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Machine Building Ministry, Finance Ministry and the Economics Ministry (schedule: 1995)

11. The Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, Machine Building Ministry and the State Nuclear Committee (schedule: 1995)

12. The Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry (schedule: 1995)

13. The Foreign Ministry, Foreign Trade Ministry, Expert- Technical Committee, Ukrainian National Space Agency, State Customs Committee and the Security Service (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

14. The Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry and Machine Building Ministry (schedule; according to a bilateral agreement)

15. The Machine Building Ministry (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

16. The Ukrainian National Space Agency, Foreign Ministry (schedule: first quarter of 1995—beginning of financing)

17. The Defense Ministry (schedule: 1995)

18. The Internal Affairs Ministry (schedule: 1995)

19. The Defense Ministry (schedule: 1995)

20. The Ukrainian National Space Agency and the Finance Ministry (schedule: 1995)

21.

a) The Environmental Protection Ministry (schedule: 1995-96)

b) The Environmental Protection Ministry (schedule:1995-96)

c) The Environmental Protection Ministry, Ecological Inspection (schedule: 1995)

d) The Environmental Protection Ministry, Ecological Inspection (schedule:1995-96)

e) The Environmental Protection Ministry (schedule: 1995-96)

f) The Environmental Protection Ministry (schedule: 1995-96)

g) The Environmental Protection Ministry (schedule: 1995-96)

22. The Foreign Ministry, Ukrainian Embassy to the United States and the Economics Ministry (schedule: 1995)

23. The Foreign Ministry, Foreign Trade Ministry, Economics Ministry, Finance Ministry and the Ukrainian Embassy to the United States (schedule: 1995)

24. The Foreign Ministry, Foreign Trade Ministry and the Ukrainian Embassy to the United States (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

25. The Foreign Ministry, Economics Ministry, Foreign Trade Ministry, Energy Ministry, Environmental Protection Ministry, State Nuclear Committee (schedule: ongoing)

26. The Chernobyl Ministry and the Environmental Protection Ministry (schedule: ongoing)

27. The International Cooperation and Investments Agency, Foreign Trade Ministry, Economics Ministry, Finance Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

28. The Foreign Ministry, UKRINFORM, National TV and Radio Committee, and Ukraine's diplomatic representatives abroad (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

29. The Foreign Ministry and the Ukrainian Embassy to the United States (schedule: second, third and fourth quarters of 1995)

Document for realization:

Joint statement of Ukrainian and U.S. Presidents on cooperation in the fight against crime.

Measures:

1. To work out a treaty between Ukraine and the United States on legal help and legal relations in civil and criminal affairs. To take measures to agree on the text with the U.S. side.

2. To work out a draft agreement between the Ukrainian General Prosecutors Office and the U.S. Attorney General on cooperation in fighting against financial crimes. To prepare the agreement for signing.

3. To prepare, after having agreed with the U.S. side, propositions for possible forms and methods of cooperation with the law enforcement bodies of the United States in the sphere of training personnel for Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry.

4. To carry out, together with the U.S. side, preparatory work to create in Ukraine a center for professional training of personnel for units that are involved in fighting against organized crime.

5. To promote the creation of unified system of accumulation, processing and exchange of information for the fight against crime.

6. To solve questions surrounding the sending of prosecutors and law enforcement officers fighting against organized crime and drug traffickers for training by the U.S. Justice Department.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Justice ministry, General Prosecutors Office, Internal Affairs Ministry, Security Service, and the Foreign Ministry (schedule: 1995-96)

2. The General Prosecutors Office, Foreign Ministry, Justice Ministry, Foreign Trade Ministry, and the Finance Ministry (schedule: 1995)

3. The Internal Affairs Ministry (schedule: 1995)

4. The Internal Affairs Ministry (schedule: 1995)

5. The Internal Affairs Ministry (schedule: 1995)

6. The General Prosecutors Office, Internal Affairs Ministry, and the Security Service (schedule: 1995)

Document for realization:

Ukrainian-American agreement on cooperation in research and the use of space for peaceful purposes. Joint statement on future cooperation in the aerospace industry.

Measures:

1. To provide financing for the 1995 state space program.

2. To prepare proposals and participate in programs regarding the commercial use of national space technologies.

3. To create within the Ukrainian National Space Agency a scientific and research center to receive information from space units and a state scientific and an industrial center to use the information.

4. To create a channel of satellite communication between Ukrainian National Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to assist entrance into the international INTERNET computer network and the execution of joint projects in telemedicine and space communication.

5. To continue talks with the U.S. Commerce Department regarding the Ukrainian-American Joint Committee on trade, investments in the commercial use of missile carriers.

6. To complete negotiations on an agreement between Ukraine and the United States on cooperation in civil air transportation.

7. To prepare proposals for the creation of a working sub- committee on intellectual property.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Ukrainian National Space Agency and the Finance Ministry (schedule: first quarter of 1995)

2. The Ukrainian National Space Agency and the Machine Building Ministry (schedule: 1995)

3. The Ukrainian National Space Agency and the Machine Building Ministry (schedule: 1995)

4. The Ukrainian National Space Agency and the Communications Ministry (schedule: 1995)

5. The Ukrainian National Space Agency, Foreign Trade Ministry and the Machine Building Ministry (schedule: 1995)

6. The Ukrainian Air Transportation Department and the Foreign Ministry (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

7. The Foreign Trade Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Justice Ministry, State Agency for Copyright and Patent, and the Chamber of Commerce (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

Document for realization: Results of the discussion on the electricity-generating industry. The Ukrainian-American agreement on a grant for reforms in electricity-generating industry.

Measures:

1. To prepare necessary documents, to provide technical support and to train personnel in order to speed up reforms in management structures and introduce corporatization of the electricity- generating industry's enterprises.

2. To cooperate more actively with U.S. firms and financial organizations to obtain their investments in reconstruction of the industry.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Energy Ministry, Economics Ministry, and the State Property Fund (schedule: 1995)

2. The Energy Ministry and the Foreign Trade Ministry (schedule: 1995)

Document for realization: Joint statement on development of trade and investments.

Measures:

1. To prepare the necessary groundwork for sessions of the Ukrainian-American Joint Committee on development of trade and investments, for meetings of the Executive Council co-chairs and the Committee working groups' co-chairs.

2. To prepare ground for closer cooperation with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

3. To prepare recommendations for Ukrainian exporters regarding privileges in the generalized system of preferences.

4. To form a working sub-committee on standards within the Ukrainian section of the Ukrainian-American Joint Committee on development of trade and investments.

5. To work on the possible organization of a joint venture with General Electric.

6. To work out proposals on organization of information services to check the reliability of foreign partners.

7. To collect and give information about Ukrainian investment projects for further publication by the U.S. Commerce Department.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Foreign Trade Ministry and the Foreign Ministry (schedule: 1995)

2. The Foreign Trade Ministry, Economics Ministry, Finance Ministry and the Foreign Ministry (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

3. The Foreign Trade Ministry, Economics Ministry, Foreign Ministry and the Chamber of Commerce (schedule: 1995)

4. The Foreign Trade Ministry and the State Standards Department (schedule: 1995)

5. The Machine Building Ministry (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

6. The Foreign Trade Ministry and the Chamber of Commerce (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

7. The Foreign Trade Ministry and the Economics Ministry (schedule: 1995)

Documents for realization: Agreement between the Ukrainian Agricultural Ministry, on behalf of the Ukrainian government, and the U.S. Products and Credits Corporation.

Measures:

1. To promote implementation of agreements regarding a credit line for the purchase of U.S. soybeans.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Agricultural Ministry, Economics Ministry, Finance Ministry, and UkrExImBank [Ukraine Export-Import Bank] (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

Document for realization: Financial protocol.

Measures:

1. To encourage private investments from the United States in the Ukrainian economy, to speed up ratification by the Ukrainian Parliament and U.S. Congress of the Ukrainian-American Convention on prevention of double taxation and of the treaty on encouragement and protection of investments.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Foreign Trade Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, Economics Ministry and the Ukrainian Embassy to the United States (schedule: 1995)

Document for realization: Memorandum on better understanding.

Measures:

1. To continue negotiations with the U.S. side on allotment of funds and on solving the problems on establishment of a Ukrainian Institute of Ecology on the basis of the Institute of Agro-ecology and Biotechnology.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The National Science Academy and the Agricultural Academy (schedule: second quarter of 1995)

Document for realization: Joint statement of the Ukrainian and U.S. Presidents on encouraging development of professional exchanges and contacts.

Measures:

1. To work out the possible exchange of scientists, professors and students for research, training, lecturing, preparation of joint textbooks and participation in scientific conferences and lectures.

2. To establish direct connections between higher educational institutions of Ukraine and the United States.

Responsible for fulfillment:

1. The Educational Ministry (schedule: 1995)

2. The Educational Ministry (schedule: 1995)

Udovenko 'Mad' at European Council Over Membership Delay

WS1204090895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0032 GMT 12 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Svetlana Seliutina: "Udovenko Mad at European Council"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 11—Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko complained on Tuesday that the European Council [EC] has been dragging its feet on Ukraine's membership application.

"I don't know what they want from us. The Foreign Ministry and the Parliament have done much work to bring our laws into compliance with international standards," he said.

Ukraine applied to join the EC nearly three years ago and one year ago to join five international conventions on struggle against crime which are within the jurisdiction of the EC, according to Udovenko.

"Joining these conventions is more in the European Council's interest. But over one year, the EC didn't have a chance to consider this question," said Udovenko. "We are knocking at the door of the European Council."

Referring to the adoption of the new constitution—the main demand of the European Council, Udovenko stressed that this process takes much time.

"We don't have a constitution today and we won't have it soon," he said. "The constitution we use now contains 140 amendments. There is nothing left from the former constitution now.

"We are doing everything to show that Ukraine wants to become a member of the European Council. But we don't want to be the last state in Europe to join the EC. In such a case we don't need the EC," he said.

Dutch Defense Minister Holds Talks in Kiev

LD1004213895 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 10 Apr—A delegation from the Dutch Ministry of Defense led by Minister Joris Voorhoeve has arrived in Kiev on an official visit at the invitation of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

The Dutch minister held talks with Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, and Anatoliy Lopata, chief of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The two sides discussed the current state and prospects of military cooperation between Ukraine and the Netherlands, Ukraine's further participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program and the two countries' role in safeguarding European security.

"This visit is the first stage in the development of relations between Ukraine and the Kingdom of the Netherlands," Shmarov said in a joint statement to the press.

His Dutch counterpart stressed that it was his first visit to Ukraine, which he found productive, focusing on the bilateral relationship between the two defense ministries. "Our countries, however, have other areas where we could cooperate," he added.

Both Ukraine and the Netherlands are currently reducing their armed forces. Dutch experts will share their experience in this field with Ukrainian colleagues at a three-day seminar scheduled to coincide with the minister's visit.

On 11 April, the Dutch defense minister will hold talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

Kiev Sends UN Observers to Tajikistan

LD1104222195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1730 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Three Ukrainian military observers, Lt. Col. Valentyn Danylenko, Major Borys Krymenetskyy and Captain Vadym Lytnovskyy have started work as part of the UN mission in Tajikistan, Ukraine's Defense Ministry press service told UNIAN on 11 April.

The Ukrainian representatives will study the military and political situation in this Asian republic as UN military observers for six weeks.

Kiev, Iran, Turkmenistan Agree on Trade Cooperation

LD1104193995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine, Iran, and Turkmenistan have signed a memorandum on economic cooperation, inviting all interested countries to join, Ukrainian

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadiy Udovenko told a briefing in Kiev. The agreement was signed at the countries' first trilateral meeting in Teheran where Udovenko led a government Ukrainian delegation.

During negotiations, the sides reached important agreements on political, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation aimed at achieving a new level of trilateral cooperation. Iran and Turkmenistan said they were ready to supply fuel to Ukraine in exchange for products and services, and implement mutually beneficial projects without quantitative restrictions on the basis of any form of payments. The sides agreed to continue trilateral meetings in one another's capitals. Under the agreement, the next meeting will be held in Ashgabat.

Udovenko on Ukraine's Strategy for Relations With CIS

LD1104192095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1707 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 11 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Ukraine intends to work out soon a concept of relations with CIS.

In an interview with an Interfax reporter in Tehran Tuesday evening, Udovenko voiced the view that it is in the interests of Ukraine "to actively use CIS for stimulating bilateral ties."

He regretted that CIS currently focussed on the formation of "coordinating bodies to give instructions." As an example, Udovenko referred to the creation of the Interstate Economic Committee, which "in the long run will only work for itself."

He stressed the need for integration, adding that "Ukraine's president deems it necessary to concentrate on economic integration, however, not at the expense of losing the republic's sovereignty."

Udovenko called for drafting a single concept of Ukraine's relations with CIS and noted that the policy of various republican ministries lacked coordination. "We shall work out such a (proper) strategy by all means", he stressed.

Parliament Concerned About Disposition of State Property

LD1104201595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev April 11 TASS—Ukraine lays claims on over 100 facilities on Russian territory. Approximately the same number of facilities on Ukrainian territory can become property of Russia, chairman of the republican state property fund Yuriy Yekhanurov told a parliament session here today.

In his words, there will be no major property problems in relations with Russia and Belarus. Bilateral agreements have been signed and the work will soon start.

The problem of Moldovan property in Ukraine remains complicated. Moldova lays claims on over 200 facilities in Ukraine, including rest houses, water facilities and power transmitting lines. The fund chairman said that the sides have failed to reach an agreement for a mechanism of operation of these facilities has not been elaborated.

Yekhanurov suggests to set up joint ventures on their basis, but parliament members are skeptical about this proposal and think that an inventory of state property should be done first. In the opinion of the majority of deputies, state property is being pillaged under the pretext of privatization and there is no just distribution. The session recognized the fund activities as unsatisfactory.

In the opinion of some experts, the parliament may resume the privatization process in Ukraine as it was done in 1994. The break prevented the fulfilment of the privatization program.

Delegation Leaves for Moscow for Trade, Debt Negotiations

LD1104195095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—A Ukrainian Government delegation led by Acting Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Osyka left for Moscow on 11 April to negotiate bilateral agreements on foreign trade to be signed together with the wide-ranging treaty between Ukraine and Russia during Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kiev.

Speaking to UNIAN, head of the Cabinet of Ministers department for ties with the CIS Kostyantyn Petrov did not deny the fact that the delegation would also discuss problems concerning the possible suspension of the agreement on restructuring Ukraine's state debt to Russia to be debated in the Russian State Duma on 12 April.

"We have secured Russia's assurance that this agreement should not be suspended, in the interests of both countries. Besides, Ukraine has already paid the Russian Federation for gas deliveries in the first quarter of 1995, including interest on arrears," he said.

Marchuk on Forces Affecting Russian Foreign Policy

LD0804212095 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As far as Ukrainian-Russian relations are concerned, Acting Prime Minister of Ukraine Yevhen Marchuk said:

[Begin Marchuk recording] Political passions have of late been stirred up around this issue, mainly in Russia, unfortunately. Although, I must say at once that we—I have in mind the executive power, the president, first and foremost—we discern something that is happening in the Duma, that is even published in many newspapers and carried by certain mass media in Russia from the true policy line conducted by the leadership of Russia.

We even know the names of those who organize this. [Kostantin] Zatulin is not the only one who organizes this. We understand that political pressure is exerted on the Russian leadership. At this point we can only mention with regret the statement by Russia's Foreign Ministry on 3 April. This is something that falls out of the context within which the executive authorities of Russia were responding in a civilized manner to all the events around Crimea. You know that there were the known statements and utterances to the effect that the Crimean situation is Ukraine's internal affair.

In other words, to wind up, I would say that there have been some tensions, however they have occurred on the Russian side. As you know, here there is not as much ado about Ukrainian-Russian relations as in Russia, and I should say that our parliamentarians help us regarding this issue. I think that this will come to an end in due course. The political situation in Russia dictates the atmosphere that is being created there by some people. [end recording]

Russia Opens Consulate in Lvov To Cover Western Regions

LD1004221695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Russia is opening its consulate in Lvov, Anatoliy Kovalyov, the newly appointed Russian consul-general, told UNIAN today.

He said the consulate's activities will be regulated by existing bilateral agreements and the consular convention between Russia and Ukraine recently ratified by the State Duma.

According to Kovalyov, the area covered by the new consulate will include all of Ukraine's western regions.

The consulate, which plans to employ a staff of 20, will pursue the development of bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic, cultural, and ethnic spheres, Kovalyov said. His recent trip to Lvov left a favorable impression, he added.

"We found mutual understanding with the regional authorities on almost all issues concerning the consulate's future activities," the consul-general said.

Russian Radio, TV Broadcasting in Crimea Reduced

LD1004204895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The transmission of Radio Russia's programs on the cable radio network was halted completely in Crimea on 10 April on the instructions of Valeriy Astakhov, president of the republic's television and radio company. The transmission of Ostankino radio programs was stopped at the same time, and the Russian TV channel's broadcasting time was reduced to four hours a day.

Our correspondent reports that Astakhov explained this had been done because the management of the Ukrainian television and radio company finds the transmission of foreign programs on the Crimean peninsula undesirable. Astakhov said that the broadcasting of programs by Russian Public Television in Crimea will be reduced by more than half in the near future. The residents of Crimea will be offered Ukrainian commercial television programs instead.

Udovenko Says No Need for Russian Help in Crimea

LD1104184295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Ukraine does not need foreign assistance in the Crimean affair, Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadiy Udovenko told a briefing at the Foreign Ministry on 11 April.

Speaking of the Crimean parliament speaker's visit to the Russian Federation, Udovenko said he thought Serhiy Tsekov ought to be spending more time in Ukraine, while the autonomous parliament should get busy bringing its legislation in line with Ukrainian law.

Navy Chief Accuses Duma of Meddling in Internal Affairs

LD0804192295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—In an interview with UNIAN, Rear Admiral Oleksiy Ryzhenko, the chief of staff of Ukraine's Naval Forces, referred to the law "On a moratorium on unilateral reduction of the Black Sea Fleet" passed by the lower chamber of the Russian Federal Assembly on 7 March [date as heard] as interference in Ukraine's internal affairs. In accordance with the document, the transfer of the Black Sea facilities and infrastructure at all its bases, including those outside Crimea, to the jurisdiction of Ukraine is suspended. According to the chief of staff, these actions by the State Duma run contrary to the earlier reached agreements between Kiev and Moscow.

In Ryzhenko's opinion, Russian lawmakers are thus trying to leave the fleet facilities, in particular, those based in Nikolayev, in Russia's possession.

On the eve of the deliberation of the law at the State Duma, the leadership of the Russian Navy ignored a telegram from the command of Ukraine's Naval Forces on coordinating the deadline for transferring a building repair brigade of the Black Sea ships based near Nikolayev to Ukraine's jurisdiction. Oleksiy Ryzhenko believes that in Moscow they realized the fact that medium-class ships, which make up the basis of Russia's Navy, can only be built at the Nikolayev shipyards, and now they are trying to counteract the legitimate resubordination of the facilities located on Ukraine's territory.

Black Sea Fleet Coastal Division To Be Disbanded by 1 Jun

WS1004103595 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0857 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information provided to INFOBANK at the press service of the Ukrainian Military-Naval Forces, by June 1, 1995, the 126th division of the coastal group of the Black Sea Fleet located in Simferopol will have been disbanded. The Black Sea Fleet headquarters reported that this division consists of nearly 200 tanks and 300 armored troop carriers. The Black Sea Fleet Command has already transferred to Ukraine its bases in Ochakov and Izmail. This transfer was carried out after the instruction of Admiral Felix Gromov, commander in chief of the Military-Naval Forces of Russian Federation. According to the earlier decision, the entire coastal infrastructure was transferred to Ukraine and the floating depot was equally divided between the two partners. Six armored cutters and one trawler which Russia received during the division of the Izmail floating depot were taken away to Novorossiysk (Russia) on April 4.

Shmarov on Moscow's Moratorium on Dividing Fleet

LD1004213495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2036 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 10 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov said the Russian State Duma's intention to impose a moratorium on dividing the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet was "unreasonable from all points of view."

He told a press conference in Kiev today that the Black Sea Fleet's main facilities had already been divided and transferred to the Ukrainian Navy.

Shmarov said the State Duma's decisions on the Black Sea Fleet were a "useless political farce not reflecting the real intentions of the Russian leaders." He said he believed that this was a spontaneous action which could not be a "platform for resolving the problem."

National Affairs

Kuchma Instructs Marchuk To Form New Government

LD0804171595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma held a working conference with the government leadership on 8 April. At the conference he instructed acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk to form a new government. UNIAN was informed of this at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Expressing his wishes, Leonid Kuchma said that "ministries should look into the future rather than tackle current issues."

By 10 April ministries are to prepare their proposals and a list of draft laws to be adopted in the near future.

The government was also instructed to work out a program for administering Ukraine's law "On the State Budget for 1995." During the discussion a proposal was made that the president of Ukraine should issue a decree on strict adherence to the adopted budget. The government and relevant departments were instructed to draft documents on carrying out this instruction and consider them at one of the next sittings of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The conference also addressed the situation connected with payments for Russian gas.

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Moroz's Deputy Warns Against 'Revolution' in Parliament

WS1004103295 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking in an exclusive interview to UKRINFORM's correspondent in Kiev on Friday, April 7, Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] Deputy Chairman Oleh Dyomin warned against what he referred to as a revolution within the parliament.

The utterance was articulated by way of commenting on the Verkhovna Rada Presidium's upcoming report against the background of increasingly rumored as imminent the Presidium's resignation in a body. [sentence as received]

As Mr. Dyomin said, the report and the Presidium's resignation issue should not be mixed together. The parliament has virtually turned into an arena of political strife and squaring accounts, Mr. Dyomin admitted, though parliamentary clashes are probably normal and should be viewed as the lesser evil compared to street skirmishes and riots. Regrettably, many of these interparliamentary manifestations are very destructive by their nature, the deputy chairperson went on.

As Mr. Dyomin insisted, the electorate has grown sick and tired of this parliamentary ado and hubbub and increasingly demanding business instead of idle talk.

Mr. Dyomin expressed his hope that the Verkhovna Rada will display wisdom and prudence to discard trifles and focus on what really matters.

Deputies, Officials on Government's Dismissal

WS1104131395 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 7 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Opinions on the Occasion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Oleh Dyomin,** while explaining the need to dismiss the entire government at the 4 April legislative session, said that, as a matter of fact, the Cabinet of Ministers carried out neither parliamentary resolutions nor presidential decisions. In the opinion of Dyomin, the government did not find qualitatively new approaches to forming the 1995 state budget, nor did it develop efficient welfare measures; during its tenure, the nonpayment crisis continued to deteriorate, and the government failed to define priority branches. According to the Supreme Council deputy chairman, although there are highly qualified experts within the Cabinet of Ministers, they "were not united."

Ivan Plyushch, former chairman of the Supreme Council and current people's deputy, in an interview with UNIAN, expressed his surprise over the parliament's vote of no-confidence in the government. "I do not understand the way in which the Supreme Council dismissed the government." As Mr. Plyushch said, there is currently only one constitutional option to do that, according to which, after the Supreme Council dismissed [former Prime Minister] Masol, the president should have presented his candidate for prime minister, and after the appointment, the new prime minister should have formed a new government. "Of course, there is another legitimate way—to act according to the Law on Power. But the law must be passed first," Ivan Plyushch emphasized.

Viktor Pynzenyk, Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, in an interview with UNIAN, stated that the government's dismissal is "a normal, civilized matter." According to Pynzenyk, time will show whether he will work in a new government. The dismissal of the entire Cabinet of Ministers is better than dismissals of its individual members.

Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Mityukov believes that "it will be easier for the government to work being dismissed." He explained that it will not have to report to deputies. And the government can work for a long time while being dismissed—"from six months to a year." In the opinion of Mr. Mityukov, the current Supreme Council is unable to form a new Cabinet of Ministers.

Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk: "The Supreme Council should not have dismissed the government." In an interview with UNIAN, Leonid Makarovych [Kravchuk] emphasized that the parliament interfered with the president's powers in this case, since it is the president who forms a government and appoints the prime minister.

Liberal Party of Ukraine Chairman Oleh Soskin: "It is currently essential to form a coalition government on a party basis, composed of professionals and pragmatists from the right center.... The president is currently at a crossroads: Will he have enough will to rely on right-wing parties and parties from the right center, and will he have enough will to become a party president?"

Oleh Taranov, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Economic Policy and Management Over the National Economy: "As of today, the Cabinet of Ministers is not a presidential team. The government's dismissal was absolutely essential, since it will make it possible to form a team of like-minded and market-oriented people."

Kuchma Said 'Double-Crossed' by Masol

WS1204094895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0032 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Commentary by Olha Ansimova: "Moroz Avoids Resignation by Double Dealing Kuchma"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The resignation of Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and the forced resignation of the entire Cabinet of Ministers show that a compromise took place between President Leonid Kuchma and Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz. The following facts prove that the President and the Speaker had worked out a deal.

According to Ukrainian legislation, if the prime minister wants to resign, he must report on his activities while in office to Parliament. The rightists and right-centrists are known to have worked on joint tactics to criticize the activity of Masol to further force his resignation. A complete defeat of the Prime Minister in Parliament could have weakened the leftists' position and, in so doing, their leader Moroz, because Masol was nominated and approved due to leftist support. A weak position for Moroz was unacceptable before the Presidium's report to Parliament—the very occasion the right had planned to use to force his resignation.

There was only one legal ground to avoid the Masol report: when a resigning official is undergoing medical treatment, he need not give a report. That is obviously why Masol went to the hospital, and Kuchma, not waiting for Masol's recovery, submitted to Parliament the presidential document on the Prime Minister's resignation, which, of course, was then accepted.

It is noteworthy that Kuchma used the hospitalization of the prime minister another time as a legal mechanism in political maneuvers. This time to invalidate the Crimean Parliament decision on Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk's resignation.

But let us return to the Ukrainian Parliament. What did President Kuchma receive in return for his promise not to shake the Speaker's chair?

The no-confidence vote and the further resignation of the government made it possible to avoid the release of the previously planned annual government report, which the leftists would have used as an excuse to force some Kuchma's supporters in the government to resign. The President, now, while forming a new government, will be able to appoint his supporters freely from the old government and elsewhere.

Furthermore, the President's latest report in Parliament must be discussed. The leftists threw away their preplanned tactics and did not severely criticize the President about insufficient social measures to protect the population. Parliament did not even discuss the report. Instead, it simply accepted it.

Kuchma now has one month, according to the law, to appoint a new government, which is subject to parliamentary approval. The President, for his part, has said that he will wait until after the Parliament takes action on his Power Bill. In his Power Bill version, Kuchma himself can form the Cabinet of Ministers sans Parliament's agreement on the prime minister and other power ministers.

It is widely believed that Moroz will help push Kuchma's Power Bill through Parliament. He publicly announced that Parliament would discuss the bill this week, in other words, right after the presidium's report. Moroz likely promised Kuchma help get the Power Bill passed in exchange for Kuchma's promise that he would do his best to avoid Moroz's being forced to resign. The fact that the Inter-Regional parliamentary group, the key faction supporting the President, did not participate in discussions about the Presidium's report and none from the group supported the idea of Moroz's resignation proves the latter supposition.

The draft resolution on the no-confidence vote in the Presidium and Speaker, worked out by the Rukh, Reforms and Statehood factions, was meant to put pressure on Moroz. The document on the Speaker's resignation will be ready for use if Moroz does not take Kuchma's side. When it became clear that the decision on the Presidium's report could not be postponed until next week, the political opponents of the Speaker easily dismissed the idea of Moroz's resignation and adopted the resolution worked out by the Presidium.

The immediate resignation of the Speaker and Presidium would have been of no use to the President's supporters because the resigned Presidium would carry out its functions until a new one is elected. Under this scenario, Moroz would have even greater freedom of action while discussing the Power Bill.

The clever tactics of Moroz helped him overcome his opponents. First, despite the planned order of questions proposed to Parliament, where the Presidium's report was fifth on the list and could not be discussed due to a lack of time, Moroz shifted it to the first place, having broken the discussion of the budget draft resolution. Moroz said his decision was made "in order not to heat up the situation and to avoid political speculations." Then, after his report, Moroz rejected the Reforms faction's demands to finish the budget hearing first and then to return to the Presidium report.

Later, the Speaker rejected a faction deputy's proposal to form a special committee to work out a common resolution from the three different draft resolutions, instead forcing Parliament to vote on his own draft resolution because it was worked out first.

Thus, Moroz double-crossed Kuchma. He failed to yield to the pressure of Kuchma's supporters and still escaped resignation. The Speaker's victory boosted his position, giving him more strength in the current political situation than Kuchma has. As for the fate of the Power Bill, it will depend on whether President Kuchma finds a new mechanism to influence the Speaker.

Kuchma Leaves During 'Heated Debate' on Power Law

LD1204105995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0940 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—President Leonid Kuchma walked out of the Ukrainian parliament chamber in a heated debate on the law on state power and local self-government.

The draft law, discussed in the second reading, was presented by Vasyl Durdynets, head of the conciliatory drafting commission, who asked deputies to approve the draft and then pass amendments to some articles in the current Constitution.

Speaking on behalf of the Commission for State-Building, Council Activities, and Self-Government, Oleksandr Steshenko of the Communist faction voiced sharp criticism of the law, which he described as "unacceptable," "anti-democratic" and promoting authoritarian rule. The commission believes the law in its present edition should be rejected, considerably amended, and subsequently discussed as a law on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine.

As he spoke, national-democratic deputies stormed the podium and shouted "provocateur!" after which chairman Oleksandr Moroz called a break in proceedings.

Kuchma Meets Participants in Kiev Economic Conference

LD0704181095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We are ready to learn from Russia's experience with market reforms as well as that of other countries', and we will be grateful if our experience is analyzed too. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma made this statement at a meeting with a group of participants in the international conference on the experience of economic reforms in the former USSR countries, which opened in Kiev on 7 April.

Leonid Kuchma expressed the hope that with the assistance of the participants in the conference it would be possible to analyze the socioeconomic situation in Ukraine again and to adopt positive foreign experience with the aim of reforming the economy.

Viktor Pynzenyk, first deputy prime minister; Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Choice faction in the Russian Federation's State Duma; and representatives from the Bavarian parliament, Germany's Hanns Seidel Foundation, and the Ukrainian Fund in Support of Reforms took part in the meeting.

Disarmament Committee Chairman Replaced

LD0804140895 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 8 Apr—An edict by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma appointed Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko as chairman of the National Committee of Ukraine for Disarmament and relieved Borys Tarasyuk, the first deputy foreign minister of Ukraine from the performance of these duties.

Kuchma Decrees Personnel Shifts in Government

LD1104204095 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma has issued a number of decrees concerning personnel changes in the government. The president has accepted the resignation of Mykola Sydorenko as chairman of the State Committee for Assistance to Small Enterprises.

Under another decree, Anatoliy Lakhmanyuk is dismissed from the post of deputy chairman of the State Committee for Material Resources on the grounds of Clause 6 of Article 36 of the Code of Employment Law in Ukraine. Leonid Kuchma has appointed Vasyl Romanyuk as deputy chairman of this committee.

Lada Pavlykivska has been released from the post of Deputy Minister of Economy in connection with transfer to another post.

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Crimea

Russia Faction Appeal on Political Events

954F2006A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

["Statement of the Russia Faction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Citizens of the Crimean Republic!

Fellow Countrymen!

On 30 March 1995, the Ukrainian authorities took one more step towards the destruction of our statehood. They have discarded the hypocritical mask of the democracy game.

We have all seen the true face of the authoritarian authority that is trampling all democratic principles and standards observed in the civilized world.

In executing the will of Ukrainian President L. Kuchma, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution directly subordinating the Government of Crimea to the Government of Ukraine. All these actions clearly reveal L. Kuchma's aspirations to usurp power in Ukraine and Crimea.

This is being done to a great extent in order to maintain his own people in their posts in Crimea—his relative, former Prime Minister A. Franchuk, and Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko—accused of serious abuses and around whom the interests of certain groups have been concentrated in the struggle to redistribute the property of our republic.

With open disdain for elementary legal standards, the Constitution of Ukraine has been violated, as have the Law on Local Self-Government in Ukraine and laws of the Crimean Republic in effect. A precedent has been established for eliminating the system of councils in Ukraine.

Following the decisions adopted, the Crimean Supreme Council has become virtually unnecessary, and the very concept of autonomy in Crimea is becoming absurd. In essence, a police regime is being introduced in Crimean territory, where the actions of enforcement structures replace acts of the highest legislative organ of the Crimean Republic.

Completely discarding his preelection promises with respect to Crimea, L. Kuchma is presenting himself as an unscrupulous politician who tramples upon any and every moral and ethical standard with the aim of consolidating his personal authority.

The president is proceeding to sharply exacerbate the sociopolitical situation in Crimea, to complicate relations with the Russian Federation—which is not indifferent to the fate of Crimea and Crimeans, and to threaten disruption of the signing of the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation.

Finally, he is depriving the people of Crimea of the hope of resolving issues of normalization of relations between Ukraine and Crimea through legal, democratic means.

We, deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council from the Russia faction, enjoying the confidence of a majority of the voters, are obliged to fulfill their mandate, and we shall execute our responsibilities as deputies to the end, no matter what the cost. We shall not allow a mockery to be made of the expressed will of the citizens of the republic, who have chosen freely and legally to restore and reunite our single country and its people. We believe that the policy charted by the Ukrainian leadership in settling the Crimean problem will lead the political forces that initiated it down a blind alley from which it will be impossible to escape.

The president of Ukraine bears full responsibility for the dramatic consequences that may ensue as a result of the execution of his decisions.

We appeal to the citizens of Crimea to observe the Crimean Republic Constitution of 6 May 1992, and to fulfill the decisions of the Crimean Supreme Council and its legal government headed by Anatoliy Ivanovich Drobotov.

Deputies Commandeer Vice Premier's Office

954F2006B Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by G. Potapenko: "Locked Inside... the Council of Ministers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 31 March, during the lunch recess, at approximately 1300, a group of deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council seized the office of Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko, who had been dismissed by decision of the Supreme Council.

Bursting into the reception room, Deputy V. Zaskoka kicked in the door on the secretary, inflicting slight bodily injury. He introduced himself as the head of a working group created by the Presidium of the Supreme Council to check the work of the government. According to him, Prime Minister A. Drobotov had directed the seizure of the office. He did not present any written instructions, however. Entering the office behind him were Deputies B. Kizilov, V. Zhukov, Yu. Zyryanov, S. Savchenko, V. Mordashov, A. Loyevskiy, Yu. Rozgonyuk, and Supreme Council Deputy Chairman A. Frolov. Aleksandr Ivanovich apologized to the secretary for the behavior of his colleagues. He stated that he supported the actions of the deputies and believed they had no other recourse.

A. Senchenko refused to leave the office, stating that it contained special means of communications and secret documents for which he was responsible. He said he was continuing his work, and at the moment of seizure was drawing up documents for legal proceedings on slander directed against him.

Police Colonel V. Razumov, observing the situation at the scene, issued an order to permit access to everyone presenting deputy identification.

Certainly it is hard to believe that any significant work is possible in an environment of scandal, although the deputies tried to convince journalists of the legality of their actions. Voters naively believe their elected officials are standing up in defense of the highest state interests, while the deputies get their salaries and buffoonery continues to reign in the offices of government...

Tsekov on Edict Subordinating Government

954F2017A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[L. Aleksina report: "He Laughs Best Who Laughs...: Notes From S. Tsekov's News Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 31 March the president of Ukraine signed an edict according to which the Government of Crimea is directly subordinate to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the government that had operated prior to 17 March of this year, what is more. That is, A. Franchuk, prime minister of the Republic of Crimea, and Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko have, in fact, been reinstated in office.

At the news conference, which was held on Sunday, 2 April, S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council, spoke in very strong terms in this connection.

"When I heard this, I thought it was an April Fool's Day joke. For by this edict Crimea becomes not even a secondary oblast but a colony of Ukraine," S. Tsekov unequivocally declared. "In accordance with this edict, the prime minister shall now be appointed by the president of Ukraine following a recommendation of the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, and all the other members of the government shall be confirmed following a recommendation by the prime minister by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. An attempt is being made in this edict to create a vertical power structure, although not a word is said about the postponement of the elections, which was earnestly requested by the chairmen of the city and district councils at the well-known session of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine."

In the opinion of S. Tsekov, this edict is a flagrant violation of Ukrainian legislation, primarily the Constitution of Ukraine. The speaker of the Crimean Parliament accused the president of Ukraine of hypocrisy in this connection inasmuch as it is the president who should be the guarantor of the inviolability of the constitution of the state.

The Supreme Council of Crimea cannot, according to a statement of its chief, agree with the latest decisions of the president of Ukraine. First, the republic parliament intends to request of the Supreme Council of Ukraine that it suspend the presidential edict, and, second, to appeal to the Russian Federation and other countries of the CIS and various organizations of the world community such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations for an opinion to be rendered on the events that are taking place in Crimea from the viewpoint of the observance of human rights and international law.

One further step of protest against the actions of Ukraine will evidently be a decision to hold a referendum. Tsekov promised to try to persuade the deputies of the need for such a step to ascertain Crimeans' attitude toward both the abolition of the constitution and other matters connected with the statehood of Crimea.

It is contemplated building further relations on the basis of the results of the referendum. But the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea deemed it necessary to emphasize immediately that the range of questions put to a referendum should not include points concerning the territorial integrity of Ukraine. That is, the probability of formulation of the question of Crimea's transition to the jurisdiction of Russia is deliberately excluded.

The journalists present at the news conference were, as usual, quite critical of the statement by the head of parliament and were unequivocal in their attack-questions.

Sergey Tsekov unquestioningly agreed that the fact that the majority of inhabitants of the peninsula were Russians could not be ignored. They would, in any event, still have their say, even in the event of new elections to the Supreme Council of Crimea being held, the head of parliament emphasized. I have no doubt as to what the new Supreme Council would be like, it would not differ much from the present one. Many politicians in Ukraine are afraid of the Crimeans' true opinion, on the status of Crimea particularly.

Sergey Tsekov declared also that he would by no means be afraid of a question on Crimeans' confidence in their Supreme Council were such to be put to general discussion.

Crimea Parliamentarians To Present Appeal

954F2017B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Vladimir Klychnikov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, by L. Chevelcha; place and date not given: "Hope... in the Angle of Reflection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Vladimir Klychnikov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, is the head of a delegation of our parliament which is working in the Supreme Council of Ukraine on matters concerning the relationship between Crimea and Ukraine. Journalists have the impression that this group is mitigating considerably the extreme nature of Ukrainian members of parliament's approach to the "upper strata" of the Republic of Crimea. For this reason we asked Vladimir Klychnikov to comment on the present situation from the position of his "diplomatic function."**

[Chevelcha] Vladimir Nikolayevich, first of all, what is your attitude toward the edict of President L. Kuchma on the change in the subordination of our government, and what do you see as the Crimean Parliament's next step?

[Klychnikov] Everything that has happened is very regrettable, of course. Not that long ago we were talking about the actions and decisions of the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 17 March, but we were forced to agree that they were, for all that, legislative instruments and that after a certain amount of work all could be restored in a prudent legal version. But that which happened on 31 March.... this edict was signed on 31 March, incidentally, and made public on 1 April. This says something in itself. Each nation, each country, has its own mentality. As far as the joke is concerned, Ukraine's joke on April Fool's Day this year was unsuccessful, in my opinion. It is an utter absurdity because the president, being the guarantor of the constitution, has flagrantly violated both the constitution and a number of laws, including the Law on Public Service, and Article 13 of the law of Ukraine which says clearly that people in such public service may not be related. And an attempt has been made, in fact, to eliminate the representative authority in Crimea because if the Supreme Council is reconciled to this edict, it will have no choice but to engage purely in politics. An unappealing, unconstructive business, and we will be forced, if we are speaking of our justifiability, to break down by faction and engage in political activity. The Crimean Tatars, to appeal to Turkey, the pro-Russia factions, to Russia, the center factions, to Ukraine. But all this would be reduced to public meetings and statements. And there would be no constructive efforts concerning the economy.

[Chevelcha] Is there hope, for all that? Judging by the fact that you proposed in the Presidium appealing first and foremost to the Supreme Council of Ukraine for a change in the situation....

[Klychnikov] We are not letting down as yet, there is as of this time hope in the Supreme Council of Ukraine. We will today adopt an appeal, quite restrained, I believe, and tomorrow a delegation of authorized representatives will go to Kiev, and we will request either a suspension of certain parts of this edict, which do not correspond to legislation of Ukraine, or recognition of this edict as legally invalid. I believe that the majority of Ukrainian legislators clearly understand that the Supreme Council of Crimea is to a large extent a conduit of the representative authority of all of Ukraine and that the blow struck at us will be reflected indirectly in the Supreme Council of Ukraine also. An executive power is officially being put to the test, that is, Crimea has been selected, unfortunately, not as an economic but a political proving ground. And the Ukrainian legislators should understand that, first, legality is not being observed and, second, in the coming months this could strike at them also.

[Chevelcha] The angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection, that is?

[Klychnikov] I believe that steps have been worked out also for the contingency of the Supreme Council of Crimea not agreeing with the edict, and of the Supreme

Council of Ukraine, God forbid, yielding to some political situations, not the law, and remaining silent. We could then expect the breakup of the Supreme Council of Crimea and, then, of the Supreme Council of Ukraine also. But we know that quite large numbers of the parliament of Ukraine are in a mood not to behave in prejudiced fashion in respect to Crimea. Our task now is to adopt normal documents and, having had it out with the corps of deputies of Ukraine, to nudge it toward legitimate decisions.

[Chevelcha] Today our Crimean Presidium, a large part of it, approached a solution of the quite serious question of relations with Ukraine in more balanced fashion than had been observed earlier, not that long since. It refrained from rash appeals and was practically unanimous in its support of a reasonable proposal....

[Klychnikov] I believe that the new election of the Presidium will make some qualitative contribution, for all that. First, we are trying to explain and clarify our positions in advance. Second, it is no secret that we are in dispute with the Russia and Russia-Unity factions. The Republic faction is not afraid of candid discussion. Since we have agreed to work constructively, we are making a strict and clear point of knocking down any kind of radicalism. The deputies are sometimes sincerely mistaken and deliver themselves of sharply worded opinions simply through ignorance of the situation. The unchecked pressure on the leadership of parliament is already practically spent. So God grant that we emerge from this situation and switch to a normal plane, and I believe that we will learn to work calmly and constructively.

Simferopol Pickets Protest Kiev Actions

954F2017C Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

["Own correspondent" report: "Picketing Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A government picketing action began in the early morning in Simferopol yesterday. People came to Lenin Square with slogans and placards: "Crimeans, defend the Republic of Crimea," "I, Crimea, want to go home to Russia, it is so long since I have seen it," "Yalta demands a referendum on the status of Crimea." Every now and then there were chants of "Sevastopol, Crimea, Russia" and "Referendum."

This action was organized in connection with the actions and decisions on the part of Ukraine in relation to Crimea, which reduce the autonomy to an oblast.

Crimean Parliament Appeal to Citizens

954F2021A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Appeal of the Supreme Council of Crimea to the people of Crimea]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Crimeans!

On 31 March 1995 President of Ukraine L. Kuchma signed the edict "Certain Questions of the Relationship Between the Central Organs of State Executive Power and the Organs of Executive Power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea," according to which the Government of Crimea is brought directly under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. This decision is a violation of the Constitution of Ukraine, legislation of the Republic of Crimea, and generally recognized rules of law.

The president of Ukraine has deprived the people of Crimea of the right to form and control the organs of state executive power, to influence the course of impending privatization in Crimea included. An aspiration of President of Ukraine L. Kuchma to monopolize power not only in Crimea but in Ukraine also is clearly visible, and there is a noticeable desire to preserve in their directive offices Prime Minister A. Franchuk and Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko, who had been relieved of office on a vote of no confidence and who are upholding the economic interests of certain forces participating in the struggle for a redivision of Crimean property.

For the sake of keeping A. Franchuk and A. Senchenko in office the president of Ukraine has sharply exacerbated the social and political situation in Crimea, having placed in jeopardy the signing of a Russian-Ukrainian treaty.

President L. Kuchma deemed perfectly sufficient grounds for the edict an appeal to him by the chairmen of city and district councils of Crimea asking to be brought directly under the jurisdiction of the president of Ukraine. The desire of two dozen officials, whose term had already expired, to preserve their power locally was satisfied, essentially.

The decisions adopted by the president of Ukraine deprive the Supreme Council of Crimea of the possibility of influencing the political, social, and economic situation in the republic inasmuch as all real power, as a result of these decisions, is transferred to executive structures subordinate merely to orders from Kiev.

The Supreme Council of Crimea, which has no levers of control of the executive authorities, is being groundlessly accused, contrary to common sense, of the consequences of the economic crisis and the impoverishment of the citizens, the prices turmoil, and the growth of crime, although responsibility for this is borne by the president, the Supreme Council, and the Government of Ukraine.

Owing to the news blockade, citizens of our republic cannot obtain reliable information on the work of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the position of the deputies.

Aware of its duty and responsibility for the fate of Crimea and its citizens, the Supreme Council of Crimea will do all within its power to preserve peace and tranquillity in the republic and for the observance of legality and the cancellation of the unconstitutional decisions of the president of Ukraine.

The president of Ukraine bears full responsibility for the consequences that could ensue as a result of the realization of his decisions.

[Signed] Supreme Council of Crimea.
City of Simferopol
3 April 1995
No 19-1 SC.

Crimeans Seek Veto of Kuchma Edict

954F2021B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Supreme Council of Crimea appeal to the Supreme Council of Ukraine]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed People's Deputies of Ukraine!

The decisions that you adopted on 17 March 1995 make it possible to say that legislation of Ukraine and legislation of Crimea where it does not conflict with the Constitution of Ukraine operate on the territory of the Republic of Crimea.

Taking this legal base as the foundation and guided by observance of the state and economic interests of Crimea and, hence, Ukraine also, the Supreme Council of Crimea expressed on 22 March 1995 a vote of no confidence in A. Franchuk, prime minister of the Republic of Crimea, and Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko and relieved them of office.

The consideration of this matter at the full session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 24 March 1995 once again confirmed the soundness of the personnel decisions that we had made.

Nonetheless, the well-known edict of the president of Ukraine, which is contrary to Articles 80 and 97 of the Constitution of Ukraine, goes beyond the framework established by clauses 1, 4, and 7-1 of Article 114-5 of the Constitution of Ukraine and Articles 8 and 13 of the law of Ukraine "On the Autonomous Republic of Crimea," violates Articles 5 and 12 of the law of Ukraine "On Public Service," and is retroactive to the legal relationship that existed on 17 March 1995, was made public on 1 April.

With all due respect to the highest official of Ukraine and the guarantor of observance of its constitution, we cannot agree with the decision adopted by the president and regard it as just another attempt to liquidate the entire system of representative power.

Thus in a most arduous and crucial period—that of the implementation of reforms, specifically, of privatization—the executive authority of Crimea will be left without control on the part of the people's representatives—the deputies. This could be reflected in the implementation of the reforms and could alter the balance of the property relationship in favor of structures that do not reflect the economic interests of Crimea or, consequently, Ukraine. In this connection we propose the creation of a joint interparliamentary commission of the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the Supreme Council of Crimea to consider the activity of the Government of Crimea.

What is being put to the official test in Crimea today, namely, the removal of the executive authorities from the sphere of jurisdiction and control on the part of the legislature, could tomorrow be the rule for all of Ukraine.

Based on the foregoing, we address to you, esteemed people's deputies of Ukraine, the proposal that you consider at the next plenary session the edict of the president of Ukraine and the vetoing of it as being contrary to the constitution and laws of Ukraine.

Crimean Parliament Appeals to OSCE; 'Text' Provided

WS0704114295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0311 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 6—The Crimean Parliament has sent an official written appeal to Max van der Stoel, head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation [OSCE] in Europe's minorities commission, in which they protest recent measures by the Ukrainian Parliament and President Leonid Kuchma abolishing the Crimean presidency and constitution and subordinating the Crimean government to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers and ask his organization to mediate the dispute between Crimea and the Ukrainian central government in Kiev.

The letter also asks that the OSCE supervise the local elections to be held on June 25 throughout the peninsula and take under its "patronage" all other "social and political measures which are supposed to be carried out in the Republic of Crimea."

The following is the text of the letter, as received by telefax from the Crimean Parliament Press Center on Thursday and translated by INTELNEWS.

To Mr. Max van der Stoel Supreme Commissar on National Minorities Affairs Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Dear Mr. Van der Stoel,

The Parliament of Crimea is appealing to you, one of the authoritative figures in European politics, and through you to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in connection with the legislative acts adopted by Ukraine on March 17 and 31, 1995.

These decisions, despite the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine and the Constitution of the Republic of

Crimea, have in fact removed the Parliament of Crimea and the President of the Republic of Crimea, freely elected by the overwhelming majority of the Crimean people, from fulfilling their constitutional duties.

In no way provoked by Simferopol, the adoption of these acts just when the active and constructive work of the working groups from both Parliaments is going on in Kiev arouse regret and misgivings for the consequences of the decisions passed.

The violation of the ideals of democracy and the principles of human rights puts under doubt the thesis that a law-governed democratic state is being built in Ukraine, if human rights with respect to national minorities' interests are considered.

The Parliament of Crimea is appealing to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe with a request for an active OSCE mediatory role in the further interrelations between Kiev and Simferopol as well as for patronage over all the social and political measures which are supposed to be carried out in the Republic of Crimea, primarily concerning the preparation and conduct of the election to local councils on June 25 of this year.

The Parliament of Crimea has the pleasure in conveying to you, Mr Supreme Commissar, its respect.

[Signed] The Parliament of Crimea

Message Sent to Kiev by 35 Crimean Deputies

LD0704181395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 7 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Thirty five members of the Crimean parliament have sent a message to the Ukrainian parliament supporting the Ukrainian parliament and president's resolution on Crimea. The message was signed by members of the Kurultai, Reforms and Agrarian factions and some independent deputies.

The Crimean parliament consists of 98 members.

The Crimean parliament on April 6 decided to ask the Ukrainian parliament to veto the Ukrainian president's decree re-subordinating the Crimean government to Kiev.

"The Ukrainian parliament and president acted within the framework of their competence, determined by the Ukrainian constitution and other laws", the message says.

Thirty five Crimean parliament members also say that the situation in the Crimean parliament created by "Russia" alliance in the wake of Kiev's resolutions on Crimea "fails to normalize relations between Ukraine and Kiev and on the contrary aggravates them further".

The authors of the statement are certain it would be unreasonable to have Crimean parliament resolutions discussed in the Ukrainian parliament, because that would worsen the already serious situation and give more chances to irresponsible politicians to manipulate with popular sentiment in Crimea.

Crimean Leadership's Role in Crisis Assailed

MK0704133995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Vitaliy Portnikov under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "The Time of Self-Proclaimed States Is Coming to an End. On the History of Relations Between Kiev and Simferopol."]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems now that the Kiev's unerring political planning was well calculated: The autonomous Republic of Crimea is coming back under Ukrainian control, after several months of criminal revolution, ridiculous clashes between the president and the parliament, and attempts to redistribute property—in which local businessmen and politicians felt free to use political slogans to drive any Moscow or Kiev competitors away from a potential meal ticket.

Rather paradoxically, the harsh decisions about Crimea were made precisely by that Ukrainian president who had enjoyed the greatest confidence of Crimean people in the last election. Although—immediately after the election—the declarations made by Leonid Kuchma's associates that the Crimean issue had been settled seemed more a matter of bravado than of the real facts or the new administration's capabilities, the Crimean people have now seen for themselves that the Crimean issue has indeed been settled.

Since Crimea reestablished its autonomy, its political life has been governed by flat provincialism—totally devoid of any sensible strategy or even tactics. Leonid Kravchuk, the first Ukrainian president, can, by right, be called Crimean independence's father: He believed that merely giving Oblast Soviet Chairman Nikolay Bagrov—who was cautious and fairly loyal to Kiev—the new title of Supreme Council chairman or president of Crimea would change nothing. Unlike the first Crimean Republic, however, which was oriented by the Bolsheviks to representing the national interests of indigenous Crimean peoples—primarily the Crimean Tatars— the newly formed autonomous republic found itself overwhelmed by populist slogans of radical politicians who were dreaming of altering Crimea's state affiliation, particularly since in Moscow there were quite a few politicians wishing to play "the Crimean trump card." In a large country, populists either are prevented from taking power, or, if they do come to power, they change their views at once. In small Crimea, Yuriy Meshkov—who defeated Nikolay Bagrov in the presidential election—failed to change from a populist tribune into a serious politician. The true differences between Crimea and Ukraine started precisely when the Crimean elite changed: Certainly, Leonid Kuchma already could not collaborate with Meshkov the way he did with Bagrov, and it was easy for the new Crimean leadership to turn—in the Crimean people's eyes—the Ukrainian president into a symbol of aggressive Ukrainian nationalism. In so doing, the populist Crimean leadership made its first step towards the fiasco and the abolition of its own—self-acquired—powers. The next step was made when Simferopol decided to support Kuchma in his contest with Kravchuk. True, it is obvious that the Crimeans had no other choice: For them, Kravchuk was an unequivocally negative figure, whereas Kuchma promised to "be cooperative." They could, however, abstain from taking part in any Ukrainian election at all—in line with the ideology of the new leadership. Nevertheless, the opposite happened—Simferopol declared proudly that more people there voted in the Ukrainian presidential election than in the elections of the Crimean president and parliament. Moreover, people who only recently promised their voters that Crimea would join another state did not feel like a "poor widow" in the least. Quite the contrary, the day after Kuchma was elected Ukrainian president, Meshkov's representatives discussed with representatives of the presidential team (and, quite possibly, with Kuchma himself, who received them unofficially) a plan to dissolve the Crimean parliament. It no longer matters what the Kiev counterparts of the Meshkov's representatives had in mind—whether they planned to entrap their Simferopol friends from the very outset, or intended to clarify how the Crimean scenario could work in Kiev itself. It is obvious, however, that the Crimean representatives were talking with people who were not yet part of Ukrainian power structures; in fact, it was also too early to deal with Kuchma as president. And when Yuriy Meshkov did dissolve the Crimean parliament, it turned out that he was lacking an essential element for such a move—control over power structures. Several unsuccessful attempts by representatives of the presidential (Kiev) administration to settle the conflict between Meshkov and the Crimean Supreme Council ended in the visit to Crimea of Ukrainian power ministers headed by the (then) vice premier, Yevhen Marchuk. The trap was sprung, but the Crimean parliament did not notice this, triumphantly bringing the powerless Crimean president to justice. The appearance of one of Kuchma's in-laws—Anatoliy Franchuk—as the head of government only emphasized the fact that Crimea, from then on, was to be ruled in close cooperation with Kiev. Crimean voters, however—who had for several months been watching yesterday's "Russian [russkiye] patriots" vying to show their loyalty to Kiev—were hardly surprised.

The Crimean elite came to its senses only when it had finally lost the trust and support of the Crimean people, and when the instruments of force had been placed completely under Kiev's control. Moreover, Simferopol has failed to notice that the Ukrainian president is now ruling the country with the help of a new—rather professional and self-confident—team, underpinned by the potential of power structures that had existed prior to the election. In addition, as a leader who received as many Crimean votes as Meshkov, Kuchma can act in a much more resolute manner than his predecessor, Leonid Kravchuk.

Possibly, Crimean voters feel betrayed. They have been betrayed, however, not by Leonid Kuchma, but by those local politicians or hapless Moscow visitors who persuaded people—ignorant of international law and geopolitical reality—that state borders can be changed with a magic wand and that a small Ukrainian region, economically far from the most important one, could be more important to Russia than its relations with Ukraine itself. The populists, who came to power in Crimea by chance, attempted to replace politics with history (like Meshkov), economics with promises that were unrealistic for the former oblast (like Saburov), and parliamentarism by backstage intrigues (like Tsekov). None of them could tolerate realists capable of making decisions, and all of them believed that they had managed to outwit the whole world and that both Moscow and Kiev were already playing by Simferopol's rules. Such an elite could hardly understand what a transformation Leonid Kuchma would undergo sitting in the president's chair in a country with a population of 50 million people. Such an elite—having refused the service of professional politicians—could hardly beat such a good player as Yevhen Marchuk, head of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

Now, Simferopol is playing by Kiev's rules: one step aside, dissolution; one step back, economic pressure. One can move only forward—toward the shining heights of the Ukrainian Constitution and edicts of the president, who only recently was believed in Crimea to be the principal hope for cooperative relations. Of course, for Crimean politicians, this route is painful indeed, but—like all parliamentarians—they wish to stay in power and to participate in the redistribution of property. They have no protectors in Kiev: As regards the Crimean issue, the Ukrainian power structures are acting in striking harmony. The post-Chechen Kremlin is watching the emotional torments of the Simferopol parliamentarians almost indifferently. The time of self-proclaimed states is coming to an end, and one can only hope that over the entire post-Soviet space it will end the way it is ending in Crimea today—without shooting, without casualties and destruction, solely by means of parliamentary decrees and presidential edicts.

Economic Issues

Udovenko Views IMF Standby Loan to Ukraine

LD1104180495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev April 11 TASS—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a 1.96

billion dollar standby loan for Ukraine, a news conference was told today by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

An initial portion of the loan will be disbursed already in April-May of this year.

The IMF agreed to issue the loan after the Ukrainian parliament had passed a 1995 budget conforming with international standards.

The loan is targeted for the reform package of the Ukrainian Government.

The first installment of 1.57 billion dollars is to be issued for one year. The second, 392 million dollar installment will come from the fund for systemic reforms which had been set up by the IMF to assist nations with transition-period economies which are confronted by difficulties balancing their payments.

A previous IMF loan was received by Ukraine last autumn.

Udovenko said the IMF's standby loan paved the way for Ukraine's getting a Western package of aid and loans worth 5.5 billion dollars.

The foreign minister said the IMF's decision to lend to Ukraine had been facilitated by a constructive stance of the U.S. Administration which repeatedly pointed to the consistent quality of market reforms pursued by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

IMF To Transfer About $400 Million 'Soon'

LD1104192195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 11 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The International Monetary (IMF) fund will soon transfer to the account of the National Bank of Ukraine in the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States $400 million - part of the stand-by credit and Systemic Transformation Facility (STF) totalling $2 billion.

IMF representative in Ukraine Alex Sundakov has said that a greater part of the money to be transferred ($370 million) constitutes the second STF tranche meant for restructuring the Ukrainian economy.

Sundakov said the rest of the money would be issued in quarterly installments of $350 million each. The arrival date of each installment will depend on progress in implementing the government's economic reform program, approved by the IMF.

Sundakov said that the stand-by credit was not an earmarked one and would be entirely in the Ukrainian government's command. Apparently the Bank of Ukraine will use the stand-by credit to stabilize the national currency as well as sell hard currency in the Ukrainian inter-bank currency exchange to maintain the trade balance. The Ukrgazprom concern is one of the chief likely buyers. It will use hard currency to pay for Russian gas supplies.

Committee Demands Restitution for Taxes on Belarusian Oil

WS1004103495 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0857 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian National Committee for Oil, Gas, and Oil Refining has appealed to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Presidential Administration with a proposal to abolish a decision on the removal of taxes on Belarusian oil products which are delivered to Ukraine within the framework of the intergovernmental agreement on export-import of goods for 1995. Stepan Yaloveha, who heads the press service of the National Committee for Gas, Oil, and Oil Refining, said that due to the absence of these taxes products of domestic oil refineries become uncompetitive; since special agreements were signed between Moscow and Minsk, Russian oil given to Belarusian refineries is cheaper than Russian oil received by Ukrainian refineries.

Fourth Unit of Zaporozhie AES Reopens

LD1004184395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 10 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ZAPOROZHIE, April 10 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The fourth unit of the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant was put back in operation on Sunday morning. The station's information center said that the unit was suspended at 18:12 on Saturday following a short circuit outside the reactor. A safety had system switched off the generator. [sentence as received]

All readings are within the safety limits and standards, the radiation situation in the region has remained unchanged.

This is a zero level incident on the international scale.

Belarus

Lukashenka, Deputies Disagree Over Referendum Issues

LD1104181195 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The political crisis in Belarus: President Lukashenka said he will take responsibility for carrying out the referendum on all the points rejected by the parliament. Lukashenka is striving to submit to the referendum the question of his right to dissolve the parliament. The deputies' unwillingness to agree to the referendum may encourage the president to make decisions from a position of power and to suspend the preparations to the parliamentary elections. Our Minsk correspondent has the details:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The latest parade of the Belarusian parliament has begun today, after deputies of the Belarusian National Front [BNF], which is in opposition, came out front and sat themselves near the podium and declared a hunger strike over the referendum:

[BNF leader Zenon Pozdnyak] Everything has been plundered. Everything has been destroyed. Finally, they have decided to kill this state and to bring shame on this beggarly people. That is why the hunger strike is the only way out. These people obey neither the Constitution, the laws, nor morality. This is a pack of wolves.

[Correspondent] The Belarusian president [Alyaksandr Lukashenka] spoke to the flabbergasted deputies after this:

[Lukashenka] [video shows Lukashenka shouting in the presidium] Can you be called the Supreme Soviet? Dear people's deputies, if the Constitution is not observed in these coming days, then I am telling you in full awareness that I will suspend the work of the Supreme Soviet.

[Correspondent] Lukashenka said that the present Supreme Soviet, three days before the end of its term, will be unable to change either the referendum or its effects:

[Lukashenka] I will make a decision on the representation of the activity of the Supreme Soviet. This is the first thing. [passage indistinct] However, you will not get any kudos from this, esteemed Karpenkas and Pozdnyaks. You will not get anything here. The people will not support you. Zenon [Pozdnyak] said long ago in this same room: Your time has ended.

[Correspondent] However, the Belarusian parliament has voted down three of the four questions submitted by the president for the referendum. Only economic integration with Russia has been adopted; 180 deputies voted for it. The president will surely be unhappy with this turn of events. [end recording]

President Threatens To Delay Elections

WS1204075695 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0721 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The parliamentary plenary sitting of April 11 began with a scandal. The opposition leader Zyanon Paznyak declared that the faction of the Belarusian Popular Front went on a hunger-strike. About 15 members of the faction took seats on the right and left sides from the presidium in order to express their protest against the referendum initiated by President Alyaksandar Lukashenka. "Having robbed the people, you offer them a public split and civil confrontation. Having robbed the people you are ready to sell out their Fatherland, to throw it under exploitation from the foreign and national mafia... We demand the observance of the Constitution, the laws of the Republic of Belarus, freedom of expression and the elimination of censorship", Mr Paznyak said.

This event was predetermined as far back as the day before when the Supreme Soviet reverted to the question of the referendum. At April 10 evening sitting 159 MPs voted for the holding a nationwide referendum. 157 MPs voted for its holding on May 14. Only yesterday Alyaksandr Lukashenka submitted new wordings of the questions he had proposed for the referendum to the Supreme Soviet. When the President appeared in the Oval Hall he demanded the immediate consideration of the new questions. However two parliamentary committees—for legislation and state construction—spoke against the consideration of the questions on that day because they had no time to give a juridical assessment to the new version of the questions.

Then the President withdrew the new wordings and suggested the parliament should debate the questions he had submitted for consideration two weeks ago.

The voting on 11 April ended in the following way: the MPs approved the putting of only one of the four questions to the referendum—about the President's policy aimed at integration with Russia. 180 MPs voted for this. 124 MPs voted for the inclusion of the first question—the status of the Russian language, 150 MPs voted for the inclusion of the question on state symbols (only two votes were missing), and only 86 MPs voted for the inclusion of the fourth question—about the President's right to dissolve the parliament.

During his address to the parliament after the results of the voting had become known the President declared that all the same the questions he proposed would be put to the referendum on May 14. At the same time, alleging that the Supreme Soviet violated the Constitution the President said: "You are inciting me to force methods, and I will have to postpone the elections". He also added that he intended to suspend the activity of the present parliament. After this the President left the Oval Hall, and the parliament reverted to the consideration of the next items of the agenda.

Further on Presidium Meeting, Alleged Bomb Threat

LD1204094995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk April 4 [date as received] TASS—An urgent meeting of the Presidium of the Belarus Supreme Soviet began here at 10 a.m. local time [0700 GMT]. It is being chaired by Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb.

The meeting was called due to the earlier reported events in the Belarus Republic. Today morning several opposition MPs, representing the ten participants of the hunger strike, which began on Tuesday [11 April], met the Hryb to show him the medical certificates, proving that they were manhandled during their forcible evacuation from the government building, where the hunger strikers planned to spend the night.

According to MP Leonid Borshchevsky, Hryb expressed his regret in this connection and urgently contacted officials of the Belarus procurator's office.

The government building is being examined, because, according to the official version, there is an explosive device planted there.

The hunger strikers are now holding a press conference at the Belarus Supreme Soviet.

'Operational Plan' To Ensure Parliament's Security

WS1204092595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 2025 [1725 GMT] on 11 April, the Civilian Defense Operational Service of the Belarusian Interior Ministry was officially informed by the Minsk City Executive Committee Department of Internal Affairs about the alleged placement of an explosive device [uzrywnoye prystasavanne] in the House of Government. This information was received via phone by the officer on duty from an anonymous caller.

In accordance with the situation that developed, Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry bodies have put in action an operational plan for ensuring the security of the House of Government and the Supreme Soviet session hall. According to our information, the report has not been affirmed, but it was resolved to urgently consider this question at a joint session of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Security Council, which began at 1200 [0900 GMT]. The Supreme Soviet session is also about to resume its work in a few minutes. We will report further on the details of the situation.

Hryb Says Country 'Close to Civil War'

LD1204094195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0902 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minsk, 12 Apr—At the emergency sitting of the presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, which is underway now at the Supreme Soviet building, Mechyslaw Hryb, its chairman, said that "never before has Belarus been so close to civil war as today." [passage omitted]

The Presidium is continuing its sitting. It is examining possibilities of finding an alternative place to hold the session's plenary sitting.

A meeting of the collegium of the Belarusian Prosecutor's Office has just ended in Minsk. Its participants decided to start criminal proceedings following the attack on Supreme Soviet deputies.

Hryb Adjourns Parliament Session; Journalists Excluded

LD1204105895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1012 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 12 Apr—Just after noon local time [0900 GMT] in Minsk the session of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet continued. The deputies were able to get into the sessions hall only after undergoing extra checks by officials of the internal troops. The session took 15 minutes.

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka was not in the hall, but his interests were represented by officials of the presidential administration who were present. The majority of the deputies who spoke said it was impossible to work in such conditions, and there was talk of looking for alternative premises for the session.

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus Mechyslaw Hryb adjourned the session and went to consult the president.

Journalists were not allowed into the sessions hall. They were not able to get into the press centre where parliamentary correspondents normally work.

KGB Chief on CIS Teamwork, Nuclear Smuggling

WS1104134595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1237 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Interview with Colonel General Uladzimir Yahoraw, chairman of the Belarusian KGB, by unidentified BELAPAN correspondent; place and date not given: "No One State Is in a Condition To Struggle Against Organized Crime on its Own"—from the "Analytical Bulletin" feature No. 26, 4-10 April 1995; first paragraph is BELAPAN introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Organized crime, which has seized all new spheres of social life, has reached such a level that it has started to pose a threat to both the national security of every member-state of the CIS as well as the interests of the Commonwealth as a whole", asserted the participants of the first ever conference of the leading organs of security and special services of the member-countries of the CIS, which took place near Moscow. Unfortunately, too much time was taken to understand the necessity of multilateral cooperation and the taking of joint measures for the struggle against organized crime able to adequately counteract its threat. A BELAPAN correspondent asked the chairman of the Committee of State Security [KGB] of Belarus, Colonel-General Uladzimir Yahoraw, to explain the reasons for this and tell of the results of this meeting.

[Yahoraw] In reality, to come to an understanding of the necessity of such cooperation, quite a long time was required. But one should not separate the problem of combining efforts and organizing the interaction of the security organs of the CIS countries from the whole complex of mutual relations between the states. The meeting was, in essence, a logical continuation of the political line to cooperation. And although the period of consideration was somewhat prolonged, it was still essential; we had to go through it in order to determine the expedience and necessity of such a step. It may seem strange, but together with the negative consequences of such a prolonged process of rapprochement, when the security organs worked separately, but the borders between states remained "transparent", and favorable conditions were created for the dispersal of the activity of criminal elements beyond national borders and their consolidation with transnational criminal groups, there are positive features as well. In particular, for the formation in each state of the CIS of a self-sufficient special service with its own tasks and priorities this time was essential. Possibly, not quite so long, but all the same...

[Correspondent] Mr. Yahoraw, which of the questions considered at the conference would you single out as the most important? Which areas of activity of the security organs demand, in your opinion, the combining of efforts more than others?

[Yahoraw] Perhaps, it is the struggle of the special services against the unlawful circulation of drugs, weapons, nuclear terrorism and financial intrigues. The extradition of criminals and juvenile delinquents are also quite serious problems, it is not possible to solve them on the level of separate departments, it is essential to have interstate agreement on the legal help and active cooperation of all law enforcement organs.

[Correspondent] The current position of Belarus as a transit corridor for the transportation to the West of narcotics is well known. How serious is the problem of unlawful arms dealing on the territory of our state and what role in its prevention within the framework of the whole Commonwealth will the KGB of the Republic play?

[Yahoraw] As in the case of narcotics, the unique geographical position of Belarus today is actively used by various criminal groups of an inter-regional character, who deal in the smuggling of arms, ammunitions and explosive material. In 1994, for example, according to statistics of such types of confiscations on the border by the customs and investigation divisions of the organs of state security, 28 criminal matters were revealed and investigated. Five of such matters have already been discovered in the first quarter of this year. Here is one of the latest facts... In March on the check-point "Buh" in the course of border check of a goods train an attempt to cross the border with a whole arsenal of firearms and ammunition for them was intercepted. It included four 12 millimeter Winchester "Mayverin-88", four carbines "600 ZKK" caliber 7, 57 mm, eight hunting rifles IZH-18 "Baikal", twelve telescopic sights and eleven thousand cartridges. The circumstances of confiscation are under investigation. As concerns the role of the organs of state security of the Republic in the struggle against contraband weapons, ammunition and explosive material within the framework of the Commonwealth, then it, primarily, it is basically to closely interact with the special services and law enforcement organs of other countries to stop the channels of unlawful shipment of such contraband, not to allow the use of weapons and explosive materials, and bring smugglers to criminal justice. And, of course, the combined efforts to prevent large hoards of weapons in the zones of armed and international conflict in states, on which are imposed international limitations and embargoes.

[Correspondent] How topical is the question of nuclear terrorism on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States?

[Yahoraw] The break-up of the USSR and changes in connection with the socio-political situation in the world are not only not conducive to security and the preservation of nuclear material held on the territory of former republics, but also increased the probability of the theft of nuclear material and its components. Naturally, this creates a condition for precedents of nuclear terrorism to arise. The more so, if the tendency in the policy and actions of leaders of several Arab countries of the pro-Islamic persuasion to the create their own nuclear weapons is taken into account. Today nuclear ammunition is located on the territory of Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, we have a few dozens, although they became the property of the Russian Federation a long time ago. Unfortunately, according to the data we have, their safe-keeping is not always ensured at the proper level. Furthermore, on the territory of the above mentioned states there is also a certain amount of nuclear material used for scientific purposes. In Belarus it, approximately 440 kilograms, is kept in the Academic Scientific-Technological Complex "Sosny", which is located 20 kilometers from Minsk. As opposed to our Republic, at analogous centers in the countries of the CIS there have been repeated cases of the theft of nuclear material. If we take into account the geographical position of Belarus, the "transparent" frontiers with Russia and the Ukraine, the unequipped frontier with the Baltic countries, I do not rule out the possibility of the conveyance of nuclear material across our territory, and unfortunately, there are already concrete examples of this. In

January of this year in Brest a citizen of one of the countries of the CIS was detained while trying to carry radioactive uranium through customs. Proceeding from this, on the agenda of the conference was also included the question of the necessity of stimulating interaction with the border services, to keep closer contact with the workers of customs services for the discovery and interception of cases of illegal shipment of nuclear material.

[Correspondent] How do you perceive the combined activity of the security organs and special services of the countries of the CIS in the struggle with financial intrigues?

[Yahoraw] Economic and financial crime is today more difficult to investigate. As a rule, stable groups of people deal in criminal financial business. Therefore, in my opinion, it is essential to create communications links and data-banks on an international level on such groups and organizations. The second area of cooperation could be the implementation of joint measures for the forestalling and interception of criminals who work from region to region. An exchange of work experience would also be extremely useful, as on several points in the sphere of financial relations we are still falling behind, for example, Russia. The experience of the Russian special services in the investigation of financial speculation and investment companies like "MMM" would be very useful for us.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yahoraw, what were the basic results of the conference?

[Yahoraw] Above all, we came to an agreement on the relative urgency of devising principles of combined activity in the struggle against organized crime. Especially with the part of it which directly threatens the security and the social interests of the state. The creation of a United Data-Bank was recognized as expedient, which will be formed by the efforts of the special services of all the countries of the CIS. It was decided at the conference to form an effective coordinating organ, summoned when necessary, but not less than once a year. Already at the next conference, which will take place in the second half of May in Tbilisi, we plan to sign a multilateral agreement on cooperation in the struggle against organized crime and protocols for it.

[Correspondent] Does it not seem to you that there is a chance this agreement, like most agreements signed within the framework of the CIS, will remain only on paper?

[Yahoraw] Firstly, the results of interaction of the security organs on a bilateral basis have created favorable grounds for cooperation on a multilateral basis. And secondly, organized crime has taken on an international character, and it is not within the capacity of one state of the Commonwealth to fight it on its own.

[Correspondent] With the special services of which state of the CIS has the KGB of Belarus the closest contact?

[Yahoraw] Above all, of course, with the Federative Service of Contraband Intelligence of the Russian Federation and the Security Service of the Ukraine. We also worked together with the committees of national security of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, and the State Management of National Security of Armenia. We are preparing to sign bilateral inter-departmental agreements with the relevant services of Poland and Germany.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yahoraw, were questions of cooperation between the special services of states of the CIS directed against analogous structures of countries of the far abroad, and the activity of the special services of states of the Commonwealth one against the other discussed at the conference?

[Yahoraw] Well, it is not acceptable to talk of such themes in the special services. Each has its own interests, each realizes them in some way. But no one has ever discussed this and no one ever will, except if it does not concern a specific person or event. This applies both to the combined opposition to the special services of the countries of the far abroad and to actions against each other.

[Correspondent] Have you heard of cases like the neutralization of Turkish spies in Belarus which take place in any other countries of the Commonwealth?

[Yahoraw] I know that there were similar cases in Russia, Kazakhstan, and in some Transcaucasian states. It is true that there everything was calmer than here. In fact, we would have had less problems with these Turkish spies as well if we had quietly deported them from the country. On the other hand, we could have made the affair public, calling press conferences and giving all the necessary explanations. We wanted to do so, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was against it, time passed and already all sorts of rumors have sprung up around the event, and someone made it seem completely dubious. The stickiness of the situation was undoubtedly in the fact that journalists became involved in the affair...

Moldova

Chisinau Set To Join European Structures

LD1104190095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 11 (Interfax)—Moldova's Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov is convinced that "the next session of the Parliamentary Assembly and the ministerial council of the Council of Europe (CE) will approve the republic's application for membership in that organization."

As Popov told an Interfax interviewer in Chisinau, "integration in CE takes a priority in Moldova's foreign policy."

He noted that his republic "has fulfilled all the terms set to the countries applying for membership in this regional organization."

Popov reiterated Chisinau's intention "to continue the process of integration in international economic and political structures without abandoning traditional economic cooperation within the CIS."

On relations between Moldova and the European Union [EU], Popov reported that "an interim bilateral accord is already at hand", and as a result, "a number of provisions of the framework agreement concerning trade will be in the works soon."

He made a reminder that the framework agreement on partnership with EU, signed during the Moldova President Mircea Snegur visit to Brussels last November, needs to be ratified by the parliaments of that organization's member-countries.

The European Union "has already got down to implementing several programs aimed at assisting reform in Moldova," Popov said, referring among other plans to the Tempus program, envisaging a higher education reform, and a number of transportation and power engineering projects.

Popov also revealed that the EU had set aside for Chisinau a 45 million ECU credit to prop up its balance of payment.

Ministry Rejects Russian Duma Decision as 'Interference'

AU1104173595 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2123 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 10/4/1995—"The decision adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on April 7 on the inclusion into the agenda of the question named "On Inadmissibility of the Russian 14th Army Withdrawal from Dniester" and the recent presence of Russian parliamentarians as observers at the illegal Dniester elections and referendum... cannot be regarded otherwise but an interference into the internal affairs of a sovereign and independent state—the Republic of Moldova, reads the Statement of the Moldovan Foreign Ministry.

The document points out that "using the thesis of protecting Russian interests and Dniestrian Russian-speaking population as a smoke screen, some deputies in the State Duma are seeking to render an open assistance to separatism, including by attempting to preserve the presence of the Russian Army on our territory".

"They would ignore the concrete actions, being undertaken by the Moldovan leadership targeted on broadening and deepening the traditional cooperation with the Russian Federation, on creating favorable conditions for enjoying constitutional rights by all citizens in Moldova, including all national minorities", the statement reads.

"The propagandist slogans on the alleged Moldova's strife to solve the Dniester conflict forcibly are devoid of any grounds and are inventions of those who wish to preserve and strengthen their uncontrolled and unlimited power in the Eastern Moldovan areas".

The Foreign Ministry has confirmed "the political will and resoluteness of the Moldovan leadership to strictly follow the principles of peaceful settlement of the Dniester dispute, with mediation of the OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] Permanent Mission to Moldova and the Russian President's Special Envoy".

The document emphasizes that "Moldova does not identify the actions of the State Duma with the stance of Boris Yeltsin, the Upper Chamber and the Russian Government based on unconditional recognition of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova".

"The Moldovan Foreign Ministry expressed hope that the Russian Duma will show wisdom, and things will not go as far as to discussing the army presence in the above-proposed formulation", reads the Statement.

Commentary Sees Shumeyko Visit as 'Most Significant'

AU1104180995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2123 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Moldova and Two Russias"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 11/5/1995—Last week's visit to Moldova of Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Parliament's upper chamber, may be regarded as one of the most significant events in the political life of Moldova in the recent time.

This political landmark is notable not only because this was the first official visit to Moldova of a member of the Russian Federation's top leadership after both countries have declared their independence, but also because it revealed substantial problems that have accumulated in the bilateral relations.

Thus, the Russian State Duma has not yet ratified the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation signed between the two states as long ago as in 1990, and ratified by the Moldovan Parliament very shortly after the signing.

Another point is the still unclear role of Moscow in the Dniester settlement. The armed confrontation of 1992 was unleashed not without the help of certain interested forces in Russia, and was put an end to by the Moldovan-Russian Agreement of July 21, 1992.

Now Russia, on the one hand, has committed itself as a mediator in the final political settlement of the problem. And, on the other hand, Moscow advocates of restoring the USSR are actively speculating on the Dniester dispute. One proof for that is the recent non-sanctioned arrival of a group of Russian parliamentarians who came to Tiraspol to observe referendum concerning the Russian 14th Army. Another is the absence of practically any reaction of Moscow on Chisinau's official protests. And, finally, the biggest problem are disputes around the withdrawal of this Army from the Moldovan territory. Although Russia signed the Army Withdrawal Agreement on Last October 21, Moscow is in no hurry either to implement the framework document and all additional protocols to it, or to ratify them, at least.

In such a situation, Chisinau's demands for unconditional army removal and for organizing an international monitoring of the withdrawal are causing more irritation shown by some Moscow high officials, which, again, leads to aggravation of the bilateral relations.

With this regard, Shumeyko's visit brought clarity to many issues. He has spoken synonymously in favour of Moldova's territorial integrity and independence, for solving the Dniester dispute by using exclusively political methods—in the framework of the integral and indivisible republic—by granting broad autonomy to its eastern areas.

In this context, it is very demonstrative that Vladimir Shumeyko openly refused to have any meetings with Tiraspol officials who wanted to negotiate with him very much, and even came to Chisinau for that purpose.

The chairman of the Russian Parliament's upper chamber has assured the Moldovan leadership that all the signed documents shall be ratified by the Russian side with due account of the present-day reality.

However, Chisinau's chief hope for developing the relationship with Moscow is related primarily not with these Shumeyko's statements, but rather with his assurance that "there will be no problems with the army withdrawal." He let understand that the agreement implementation may be started even before the document is ratified, having stressed that this implies, first and foremost, the removal of armaments and machinery which are in abundance with the Russian troops in Dniester and the necessity to evacuate them causes no more doubts after the Chechen tragedy.

As it turned out, such an approach to the situation may cause not only doubts, but even actions of some serious opponents. Even before Shumeyko returned to Moscow, his attitude was subject to a severe criticism of various political parties. On the initiative of the above-mentioned observers from the Liberal Democratic Party, who visited the Dniester elections and referendum, the State Duma voted for inclusion into the agenda of the issue "On the Inadmissibility of Withdrawing the 14th Army From Dniester." Exactly such wording received 228 votes in favour, and only two votes against, with 7 abstainers.

Does it mean that Moscow has changed its stance, or Vladimir Shumeyko suggested only his personal point of view (which, by the way, was actively asserted by the Tiraspol leaders)?

Being number three person in the Russian leadership and a man close to President Boris Yeltsin, Shumeyko just could not suggest his personal opinion in his official speech in the Parliament of a foreign state. Besides this, the Russian policy could not suffer such principal changes during 24 hours.

The point is, Moldova, like other countries, has been facing at least two contrary, though equally official, opinions in dealing with Russia. One belongs to representatives of democratic Russia who seek to establish good neighbourly relations with all countries, to change for the better the negative image of Russia in the world, particularly after the Chechen events.

The other belongs to representatives of conservative Russia, mentioned by Shumeyko himself during his visit in Chisinau. They do not conceal their nostalgia for the USSR, and do not lose hopes for its restoration, encouraging the separatist centrifugal tendencies in Dniester, the Crimea, and some other regions.

Such are the contradictory realities of present-day Russia which are going to remain at least till the forthcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. Moldova made a stake on representatives of democratic Russia, and with their help may solve the 14th Army problem, even with the fierce resistance of the conservatives.

Strike Committee Decides To Continue Protest Action

AU1204065095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2200 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/4/1996—The protest demonstrations of students and teachers begun on March, 18, continued today in Chisinau. This morning, the Strike Committee decided to continue the protest actions. Several thousands of students and teachers demonstrated in Piata Marii Adunarii Nationale where on April 5 tents were pitched in order to continue striking non-stop. Grigore Palade, members of the strike committee, told BASAPRESS that "since a part of the strike committee members and many teachers favor the continuation of the strike, those who on April 7 favored a moratorium decided to go on striking."

The talks between the Presidential Commission and Strike Committee continued today. The protesters insisted on the autonomy of higher educational institutions and eligibility of rectors, mentioning that this is the main demand on whose solution depends the continuation or suspension of the strike. Presidential adviser Tudor Colesnic, acting chairman of the presidential commission, said he will ask Andrei Sangheli to convene a Governmental session to discuss this issue. Education Minister Petru Gaugas said

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that the Government decision on appointing rectors is temporarily since the education law provides for their election. [sentence as received]

In another context, Labor and Social Protection Ministry Dumitru Nidelcu told the protesters that 50-55 million lei are allotted monthly from the budget to pay pensions. Tudor Colesnic said to BASAPRESS that "the restrained budget does not allow to settle all demands at the pace demanded by the strike committee." Today's talks gave no results. It was decided to continue tomorrow the talks and sign an agreement and adopt a special decision after examining each point.

Parliamentary Committee Terms Strike 'Unlawful'

AU1204065295 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2133 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 10/4/1995—The chairman of the Parliamentary Juridical Committee, Eugen Rusu, has stated that the student strike is unlawful.

In his interview with the governmental NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA newspaper, he referred to Article 45 of the Constitution which guarantees the right for a strike, but emphasizes that this right may only be realized for protecting population's social and economic interests, and in conformity with legislation defining conditions for strike conductance.

Article 2 of the Law on solving conflicts in work collectives, adopted on February 24, 1993, stipulates that a decision about going on strike shall be taken by a trade union organization with consent of no less than half of the work staff. The Article reads that a strike shall be organized by a trade union.

"The strike of students (not to mention about the schoolchildren!) was unleashed in defiance of the abovementioned provisions", believes Eugen Rusu. "Moreover, Article 19 of the above Law stipulates that a strike may only be announced after all possibilities are exhausted for solving the conflict through negotiations inside the collective".

The Parliamentary Committee Chairman has stated that the demands of the illegal strike are also unlawful. Such demands as revising the Constitution, the Land Code, cancellation of the real estate tax concern the entire nation and the State.

The order of introducing such amendments is presented in Articles 141-143 of the Constitution, which stipulates that any revisions in the Main Law may only be initialed by at least 200,000 voting citizens, or by at least one-third of the Parliament, or by the president.

As for constitution draft laws, they are to be submitted by the Parliament, together with a conclusion furnished by the Constitutional Court.

Besides, the current Moldovan legislation does not envisage conducting political strikes.

According to Rusu, the administrations of many enterprises and organizations, whose workers quitted their work places and joined the strike, have initialed court proceedings against strike organizers at their enterprises, and demanded to compensate the strike-related damage.

Kazakhstan

Perry, Nazarbayev Discussions Reviewed

954F2045A Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Reports by KAZTAG and Vadim Makhin: "Kazakhstan and the United States Will Work for Conversion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] KAZTAG—**On 5 April, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, who had arrived in Almaty the day before on an official visit, was received in his residence by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.**

During the lengthy interview, questions of international and regional security and the development of bilateral relations in the defense sphere were discussed. The progress of realization of the executive agreements on the safe and reliable dismantling of the nuclear weapons remaining on the territory of our republic was analyzed, and the need for a stimulation of cooperation in the sphere of defense conversion was noted. The parties were unanimous that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty should be extended indefinitely and unconditionally.

N. Nazarbayev declared that Kazakhstan was prepared for an expansion and intensification of defense cooperation with the United States in accordance with the Democratic Partnership Charter and the Memorandum of Understanding in the sphere of defense and military relations signed in Washington in February 1994.

W. Perry was briefed on the development of the domestic political situation in the republic connected with the announcement of a national referendum on the question of an extension of the term of President N. Nazarbayev.

In turn, the U.S. secretary of defense observed that Kazakhstan is for his country a state of immense strategic importance. In recent years, in his opinion, our republic has scored big historic achievements and rightly occupies a notable place in the world community.

Prime minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, Security Council Secretary Tulegen Zhukeyev, Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov, and Kasymzhomart Tokayev, minister of foreign affairs, took part in the meeting on the Kazakhstan side.

Negotiations were conducted the same day between W. Perry and S. Nurmagambetov and then with Amangeldy Kazhibayev, chairman of the Cabinet's Committee for Defense Industry. They discussed a broad range of issues concerning military and conversion activity.

Vadim Makhin report

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Kazakhstan Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov met with journalists following the negotiations and described them as confidential and constructive. The overseas guest observed that the Kazakhstani land is rich in natural resources and talented people, and that it has a promising future. And the United States considers our country an ally which is committed to stability, peace, and democracy.

The total value of investments in joint projects in the sphere of defense partnership is increasing. Thus, four American firms will invest more than $21 million for the conversion of a number of enterprises. A joint venture with the Kazakh National Nuclear Center for the conversion of the former experimental nuclear test range into a plant for the production of printed circuit boards is being formed. Instead of missile and aircraft systems, the Gidromash is to manufacture and distribute pressure valves and vessels for cryogenic material and gases. The Biomedpreparat Enterprise will become a concern for the production, packaging, and distribution of vitamins, antibiotics, and other pharmaceutical preparations. And, finally, the Kazinformtelekom military-industrial company will be converted into a telecommunications company.

At the news conference, journalists were introduced to the leaders of these joint ventures. A remarkable fact in itself. This means that not only the U.S. Government but also American businessmen have come to believe in the future of Kazakhstan.

The leaders of the military departments also said that agreement had been reached on the arrival in our republic of military advisers from the United States, joint exercises, and assistance to Kazakhstan in the strengthening of coastal protection of the Caspian. The American side promised to allocate for this, in particular, military patrol craft.

There were also questions of a general political nature, on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan included. W. Perry observed that he had explained to the leadership of our republic the position of the American side, which is that elections of a new parliament need to be held for the further development of democracy in the young sovereign state.

In the evening of 5 April William Perry left Almaty for Uzbekistan.

Qazhygeldin on U.S., Canada Visits

954F2049A Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Trust in Kazakhstan in the West Is Growing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The subject of the development of the republic's oil and gas sector, with the participation of Chevron, of course, was at the center of attention on 6 March at a news conference conducted by Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin on the results of the recent visits of a Kazakhstan Government delegation to the United States and Canada.

At the meetings in the United States, the head of the government said, it was a question in this respect of specific projects. Chevron, Mobil, and Amoco—well-known oil companies involved in the exploration for and the production, buying and selling, and shipment of oil and petroleum products within the CIS—which received our delegation, are working very actively in both Kazakhstan and Russia. Attempts to unite in the interests of world order Kazakhstan and Russia in the sphere of the distribution of this most valuable hydrocarbon raw material are being observed. But this is a complex issue, A. Qazhygeldin observed, inasmuch as the truth that capital in principle links borders, but does not open them up, is confirmed here. As far as Chevron is concerned, it is not a member of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, but is attempting for certain financial infusions to obtain a part in its plans. This problem cannot be resolved today as Chevron would like. The project is split into two phases, and Kazakhstan has proposed that not only it but other companies also participate in the second phase.

During the visit to America, the prime minister reported, there was an important discussion in the OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corp.] and Ex-Im Bank of the United States on private investments in the republic's economy. It was agreed that the funding of the development of several promising fields here was possible, and an agreement on the allocation of a loan for the modernization of the Aktau seaport to cater for the exportation of crude from the republic by ship was reached. Representatives of Amoco and Mobil will come to Kazakhstan in April to discuss the implementation of a number of joint projects.

The prime minister and the members of the delegation gave the outcome of the visit to America high marks. Pretty good results were achieved, they observed. Thus, in particular, the preliminary consent of the leadership of the World Bank not only to the financing of the balance of payments deficit of the republic budget [as published] but to the allocation of funds for the separation of the social infrastructure of a number of major enterprises and its transfer to the budget and also to the co-financing of the agrarian sector was obtained. Consent was obtained also from the rehabilitation bank for the co-financing of the "cure of sick" enterprises. And these are substantial amounts. Thus, whereas for February of the current year a direct VM [as published] loan to the treasury was planned up to a maximum of approximately $180 million, after the negotiations it reached the $288 million mark.

Journalists asked the head of the government how the Americans and he personally viewed the upcoming referendum. These views vary considerably, A. Qazhygeldin replied, from the calls of important financiers and bankers for us not to rush into elections but to adopt market laws through doubts as to whether there will be elections in Kazakhstan at all. The prime minister was of the opinion that it is necessary first to prepare laws that no longer permit the dissolution of parliament on such grounds as illegitimacy. He emphasized in addition that the United States was more interested in how the referendum would be organized. According to him, representatives of absolutely all states that wish to observe the preparation for the referendum here and the referendum itself will have received invitations no later than 10-15 April.

A. Qazhygeldin also shared his impressions of the visit to Canada, where, as he saw for himself, people know very little about Kazakhstan, but wish to cooperate actively with our country, and many companies are already agreeing to this partnership.

American Willingness To Furnish Aid Noted

954F2048A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Raisa Dobraya: "The American Government Believes in Kazakhstan's Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] And not only the government, American businessmen also. This is why Kazakhstan is being granted assistance of $70 million. Fifteen million in accordance with the Nunn-Lugar program—for four projects involving industrial partnership between American companies and defense enterprises of Kazakhstan for the conversion of military-industrial facilities.

Five million will be spent on the conversion of the Kazinformtelekom military-industrial company into an international telecommunications company. Approximately $4 million will be allocated for the creation of a joint venture with the Kazakhstan National Nuclear Center for the conversion of the former nuclear test range into a plant for the production of printed circuit boards. Approximately $3 million will be spent on the creation of a joint venture based on Kazakhstan's Gidromash Plant, and $2.7 million are intended for the Biomedpreparat.

Six million dollars are allocated for the creation in Almaty of an International Science and Technology Center. A number of other programs, on which the rest of the money will be spent, is outlined. Specifically, the arrival in Kazakhstan of military advisers from the United States, joint exercises, and a strengthening of coastal protection have been agreed. These will be followed by other investments.

This information was made public at a recent news conference on the results of the visit to Almaty of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. He observed that Kazakhstan performs a very important strategic role in the world.

"We are aware," the U.S. defense secretary emphasized, "of all the difficulties of Kazakhstan's transitional period and are fully resolved to help you. Kazakhstan deserves the gratitude of the whole world, since it has a lead role in the reduction of nuclear weapons. It is a new state with a very promising future. America recognizes it as its close ally."

Deputy Prime Minister Mette on Growth in Industry

LD1104183495 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vitaliy Mette, the first deputy prime minister of the republic, held a press conference today [11 April].

[Unidentified correspondent] The first deputy prime minister said the main target of the government at present is to stabilize the growth in the manufacturing industry which began recently in Kazakhstan. There was a 5.6 percent growth in manufacturing industry in March. And this was something one could have expected.

Now it is necessary to support enterprises involved in production, Vitaliy Mette added. The first step in that direction was a resolution signed by the Cabinet of Ministers on introducing an experimental reduction of electricity charges by 50 percent for enterprises from 1 April, on condition that they pay their debts owed to power engineering specialists. Now, these debts total one billion dollars.

A rescue plan is to be applied to those enterprises which show no sign of life. And if there is a demand for them, they will be handed over to companies with the right to run such enterprises under special contracts decided by competition. The conditions laid down for companies are an increase in output and no reduction in jobs.

A tax code is also almost ready in the country. The first deputy prime minister said that if President Nazarbayev signs this document, then on 1 July the tax code will come into force. Mette also noted that this new draft code was aimed at stimulating industry. Apart from officials of state structures, representatives of private business took part in working out this code.

Inflation for 1994, Beginning of 1995 Tracked

954F2046A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 2

[State Committee for Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan- KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA report: "Inflation in the Republic Economy in 1994 and the First Months of 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The consumer price index for 1994 characterizing the overall level of inflation constituted 1,258 percent. This was less than in 1993 by a factor of almost two. But for the entire first half of last year the rate of price increases remained quite high, and only in October did a trend toward a constant monthly decline emerge.

The maximum wave of inflation pertained to the second quarter of 1994 (37 percent on a monthly average), the minimum, to the fourth quarter (14.7 percent). In January-March these indicators constituted 27.6 percent, in June-September, 15.9 percent. The reason for the intensive growth of prices over the first six months of last year were the lifting of the maximum on foods and certain commodities established as of the moment that the national currency was introduced, the liberalization as of April of the prices of energy resources and other structure-forming types of products, and inflationary expectations provoked by the insufficiently productive results of the mutual offset payments between enterprises and the devaluation of the tenge.

According to figures of the republic National Bank, at the end of December 1993 the rate of the national currency was 6.31 tenge, but on 30 June 1994, 43.29 tenge, to the dollar, that is, it had declined sevenfold in the six months. The pursuit of a moderately austere financial and credit policy secured the relative stability of the tenge in relation to hard currency in the latter half of last year and contributed to a slowing of inflation. In November 1994 the rate of increase in the latter was less than in the preceding month by 5.9 points and constituted 14.2 percent, in December, by 4 points and 10.2 percent respectively, in January 1995, 1.3 and 8.9 percent, and in February, 2.2 and 6.7 percent.

The production sector of the economy remains the basis of the formation of prices. The product of industry became dearer in 1994 by a factor of 20.4, of agriculture, 18.9, and of the investment complex, by a factor of 17.3. The dynamics of inflationary processes in the first six months here were characterized by the increasing preferential rate of growth of the prices of products intended for production needs compared with the prices of consumer goods. In the first quarter of 1994, the discrepancy in their rate was negligible, but in the second quarter it amounted to a value of 1.5, almost. As of the third quarter, cost inflation subsided and the rate of growth of wholesale prices for industrial engineering products and consumer goods declined, and at the end of the year the prices of products of branches completing the work cycle had risen sharply.

At the start of 1995, the dynamics of prices in the production and consumer sectors took shape mainly without "shocks" caused by the liberalization of the prices of energy resources or a growth of the money supply. Together with the traditional price-forming components, the price situation was negatively influenced, with the strict monetary policy, by the nonpayments, given the general decline in production and the continuation of the high degree of monopolization of the economy.

A growth of prices was noted once again this January in the base branches, where the situation was determined by the increase in the prices of energy resources, the absence of market regulators, and the high level of the prices of raw material and component supplies. For this reason, the increase in the prices of the producers of industrial products in January was twice as high as in December 1994, constituting 17.9 percent. The prices of industrial products and consumer goods increased 19 and 15 percent, respectively.

A certain stabilization of the price situation, which was connected with the increased supervision of the monopoly enterprises, was observed in February in the fuel and energy branches. Almost all enterprises of the fuel and energy complex are monopoly operators. The current rates for electric power allocated industrial consumers were lowered by 10 percent. Following quite a significant increase in January in the prices of oil and its refined products, they remained practically unchanged in February.

Aside from the enumerated factors, producer price policy in 1995 will be determined also by actual demand for the finished product. It has been of a multi-valued nature in different branches of industry.

Practically no price movement was observed in titanium-magnesium and aluminum industry, the production of chemical fibers and filaments, synthetic rubber, and metallurgical and mining equipment, and in machine-tool building. Coking coal once again increased in price by 5 percent, power-generating coal, by 3 percent, and the product of timber, wood-processing, and pulp and paper industry, by 6 percent. An appreciable increase in the wholesale prices of products of so-called intermediate consumption was noted also. The prices of refractory materials doubled in connection with the sharp increase in the cost of raw material imported for their production. Of particular types of rolled ferrous metals, pipes, and products of lead and zinc industry, by 20 percent, of synthetic resins and plastics, by 16 percent.

Wholesale prices of products of light industry in February increased 6 percent compared with January, and in meat and dairy industry, 10-12 percent. Following the sharp seasonal growth of prices in food industry in the final months of 1994 and this January, the increase in these in February was recorded at the 5.4 percent level, which was less by a factor of 3.5 than in January. At the same time there was quite a pronounced increase in prices of certain types of food industry product: alcoholic beverages, 13 percent, and sugar and confectionery, 11 percent. Ice cream and smoked fish increased in price by almost 23 percent.

In industry as a whole the increase in producer prices in February of this year compared with January barely exceeded 6 percent, which was less by a factor of three than in the preceding month. In the first two months of the year, the product of industry increased in cost by 24 percent.

The selling prices of agricultural produce this January compared with last December increased by an average of 16 percent, plant- growing products, 8.6 percent, and animal husbandry products, 25.9 percent.

In the consumer sector the increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs in February was determined by the change in the prices of nonfood commodities of 3.4 points and constituted 7.8 percent. In the first two months of the year, 6.8 and 17.9 percent, respectively. The increase in the price of food as a whole declined from 9.4 percent in January to 7.8 percent in February (by a factor of 1.2), and of fish products, from 13.9 to 6.7 percent (by a factor of two), of meat and fats, from 22 to 13.7 percent (by a factor of 1.7), of dairy products, from 16.9 to 11.6 percent (by a factor of 1.5), and of potatoes and vegetables, from 15 to 11 percent (by a factor of 1.3) respectively. Bread, macaroni and cereal, and meat and confectionery products increased in price by 4-12 percent in each month in January and February.

With an overall trend of a decline in the rate of growth of prices of many foods, the differentiation between regions remains considerable. As of the end of this February, a kilo of wheat bread made from first-grade flour cost on average in Kazakhstan 17 tenge, and the difference between its top and bottom price was a factor of two. Analogous indicators for butter were 236 tenge and a factor of 1.6, beef, 66 tenge and 1.7, potatoes, 30 tenge and 2.4, milk, 22 tenge and 2.6, and 10 eggs, 51 tenge and a factor of 2.3. There was a considerable increase in February in the price of butter, of 16 percent, and of sugar, fruit and vegetable, and dairy products, potatoes, and bread, of 11-14 percent. There was less of an increase in the prices of fish, meat, and confectionery items, of 6-8 percent, and of eggs and alcohol, of 1-2 percent.

The increase in the prices of nonfood commodities in February compared with January constituted 4.4 percent, and since the start of the year, 11.1 percent. Together with the general factors shaping the price situation here, it has been influenced as of late by the decline in purchasing power for the majority of the population and the limited demand for basic necessities. The biggest increases in February were in the prices of everyday clothing and linen, kitchen ware, medication, and items of personal hygiene—by 6-10 percent. Winter clothing and footwear and home electric appliances increased in price by 1-3 percent.

A universal increase in prices and rates is being noticed in paid services also. In February the charge for accommodations increased on a republic average by 53 percent. For travel by electrified urban mass transit, by 40 percent, for water, by 16 percent, and for heating, by 10 percent, and services of preschool health-improvement establishments and consumer services, by 7-12 percent.

Inflation dynamics differ by region. In February the level of inflation in almost two-thirds of the oblasts of Kazakhstan matched the republic-average indicator or differed from it by no more than 1.5 points, in one-fifth of the oblasts it was lower by 2.5-3.3 points. The maximum inflation level by region was recorded as being 117.3 percent, the minimum, 101.7 percent.

An analysis of prices of the start of March of the current year testifies that if the moderately austere financial and credit policy combined with measures to extend the reforms and stabilize the economy persists, the decline in the level of inflation that had come about in the final months of 1994 and the start of 1995 could continue.

Kyrgyzstan

Russian Delegation Arrives To Discuss Defense Issues

LD1104123095 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry led by Colonel-General Petrov arrives in Kyrgyzstan today. Over three days the mission and their Kyrgyz colleagues will work on a number of issues of further strengthening and broadening of Kyrgyz-Russian cooperation in defense and will resolve some problems relating to the use of the Russian military facilities on our republic's territory.

Petrov, who looks after the partnership with Kyrgyzstan at his ministry, has been here before, but during this stay it is planned that he will meet with the heads the Defense Ministry here.

Parliament Postpones Swearing In of Constitutional Court

LD1204113895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0955 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek April 12 TASS—Kyrgyz parliamentarians has postponed swearing in of Constitutional Court members. For the first time, president Askar Akayev's request to speed up the process has met an unanimous resistance of lawmakers.

The two chambers demanded the Constitutional Court's account for its activities, while some of the lawmakers doubted if there was a need for the body. They said the parliament had set up commissions able to check whether any actions by the authorities conform to the Constitution.

Kyrgyzstan's Constitutional Court was formed in 1993 but it has not been sworn in since and virtually has not been functioning, though, as the lawmakers say, it received pay.

According to the lawmakers, it was the first wick placed under a time bomb by the president's decree and the last October referendum which established a bicameral parliament in the country. The current Constitution adopted on May 5 1993 does not mention a bicameral parliament and distribution of powers between chambers. However, this was defined by the constitution amendments which were discussed by the constitutional house, a public body established by a presidential decree.

The president calls on the two chambers to swear in the Constitutional Court so that it could make a final decision on the distribution of powers.

Many of the parliamentarians oppose both chambers, the Legislative Assembly and the Chamber of People's Representatives, having equal rights, which was stipulated by the bill on the issue. Decisions by one of the chambers do not requare the other chamber's approval, except issues discussed at joint meetings, for example, approving a cabinet make-up. In other cases, functions of the two chambers do not intersect. One of them adopts laws and approves chairmans of the supreme and constitutional courts, while the other endorses budget, prosecutor general and chairman of the national bank. However, parliamentarians want to clarify which of the chambers is more important.

At a closed meeting on Tuesday evening, a letter of a group of lawmakers was read out. The group called for prolonging the powers of President Askar Akayev till the year of 2000. Lawmakers attending the meeting demanded to read out the surnames of their colleagues who signed the letter. When the lawmakers were said that there were no names in the letter, they refused to discuss the issue, informed sources reported. However, according to the same sources, the letter was signed by more than 60 deputies.

What Kyrgyz parliament members think of the issue is not clear so far. But representatives of five out of Kyrgyzstan's 12 political parties said categorical no to prolonging the president's powers. Those were Communists, Republicans, "Erkin Kyrgyzstan", "Ata-Meken" and "the Unity of Kyrgyzstan".

Tajikistan

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Tajikistan

Kazakhstanis To Investigate Afghan Border Attack

LD0804135295 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Grave news has come from Kazakhstan's combined battalion guarding the external borders of the CIS jointly with regiments from Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan in Tajikistan.

Yesterday, on 7 April, during a planned escort operation, a column of Kazakhstan's internal troops and a Russian border guard regiment came under fire from the territory of neighboring Afghanistan. There are casualties.

On the orders of President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, a government commission headed by First

Deputy Prime Minister Nyghmetzhan Yesengharin has been set up fully to investigate the circumstances of the incident and to render the necessary assistance.

More information will be passed on as it is received.

Government Seeks Crisis Measures To Stabilize Border

LD0904162495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, April 9 (INTERFAX)—The Tajik government urged the UN secretary general, the CIS countries and Gorno-Badakhshan residents to take emergency measures for stabilizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border at its emergency meeting today.

Fighting between Russian border guards and the Tajik opposition has been recently renewed on the Tajik-Afghan border. According to some sources, about 20 Russian border guards have been killed.

Commander of the Group of Russian Border Guard Troops in Tajikistan, Lieutenant-General Anatoly Chechulin told the Tajik government that he considered the "series of bandit actions against Russian border guards" as "the beginning of well-prepared wide-scale actions of armed militants of the Movement for Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan."

According to the press service of the Russian troops' command, Chechulin said the opposition militants were seeking to seize power primarily in Badakhshan and then in the central part of Tajikistan.

The UN secretary general's Special Envoy Ramirez Piris Ballon, now in Dushanbe, said he disapproved of the criminal actions launched by the Movement for Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan, the same source said.

The UN secretary general's special envoy has put off his trip to Talukan (Afghanistan) and his meeting with Said Abdullo Nuri, a leader of the Tajik armed opposition, the same source said.

Meeting Adopts Measures To Prevent Border 'Operations'

LD1004075495 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of heads of a number of ministries and departments was held yesterday at the residence of esteemed Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov. They examined the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, which is considered to be the southern border of the CIS.

It was said that the irreconcilable opposition is set to carry out open military operations in the Badakhshan region. After assessing the situation, a number of concrete measures to prevent operations on the border were adopted.

Foreign Minister Meets With UN Special Envoy

LD1004121395 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0600 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov had a conversation with Ramiro Piris-Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Tajikistan.

During their conversation they exchanged views on a number of issues concerning Tajik problems and on a settlement of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. Both sides expressed serious anxiety at the worsening of the situation on the Darvaz and Khorog border sectors and at the periodic provocations by the armed fighters of the opposition to the Tajik Government in this area.

UN Official Postpones Meeting With Armed Opposition

LD1004140495 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramiro Piris Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Tajikistan, postponed his visit to the Afghanistan city of Taleqan and his meeting with Sayid Abdullo Nuri [leader of Islamic Movement of Tajikistan] because of the aggressive actions of the Islamic Rebirth Party of Tajikistan. A KHOVAR news agency correspondent was informed about this at the press office of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan.

ITAR-TASS Reference Service Views Conflict

LD1104081595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0650 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 ITAR-TASS—The abrupt aggravation of the situation on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan lately has again attracted the attention of the public to Tajikistan, a small Central Asian republic and a member-country of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which has been shaken by blood-spilling internal conflicts for a number of years. "Food for thought" about the developments in Tajikistan is presented by the ITAR-TASS reference service.

Until the year 1920, what is now Tajikistan was part of the Bukhara Emirate. A Tajik autonomy was formed within the boundaries of Uzbekistan on October 14, 1924. Tajikistan was granted the state status on October 5, 1929 and joined the Soviet Union as one of its component republics.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union recruited its first activists among the local ethnic groups in Karategin (at the foothills of the Pamirs), in the Pamirs itself and in the Kulyab region. The highlanders whom the new power gave a chance of breaking away from their formerly secluded existence formed the advance guard of the Bolshevik drive in the area. Karategin, however, remained largely under the Moslem influence, which came to light in the present situation in Tajikistan.

The inhabitants of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region in the Pamirs differ from the population of Tajikistan's other regions ethnically, as well as culturally, and linguistically. Orthodox religiousness is not their feature.

Confrontation between the central power and the nascent opposition came to light for the first time in 1990. The many year- old enmity between the Pamirians and the Kulyabians erupted in blood-letting clashes as the political struggle escalated. Confrontation continues. Its distinguishing feature is that the warring sides are made up of representatives of the same ethnic group professing the same religion: a large part of Tajiks are Sunnites [as received] and those who live in the Pamirs foothills are Ishmaelites, belonging to a branch of Shiites who reject all fundamentalism.

A factor specific for Tajikistan played a pernicious role, its clan system, which came to play a more important role than ethnic or religious motives in the political struggle.

Damage done to the national economy by armed clashes and severed trade relations is estimated to have exceeded 500 billion roubles. Tajikistan with a population of 3.5 million has lost 100 thousand people in the clashes. At present, 840 thousand refugees from Tajikistan have found refuge in the Commonwealth member-states and 60 thousand in Afghanistan.

What is the composition of the Tajik opposition? Its armed wing comprises mainly champions of an Islamic model of state building. They a brought together in the Movement for the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan. The Islamic Party of Revival forms the backbone of the armed opposition. Its headquarters is in Afghanistan. In its armed opposition to official Dushanbe, the movement is subdivided into four fronts acting along the entire border line between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The border is thus seen as the epicentre of the conflict.

The Tajik-Afghan border is 1,387 kilometers long. It is guarded by Russian border troops, the 14,000-strong group which is the largest and most powerful wing of the border troops of the Russian Federation. The status of their deployment in Tajikistan is determined in a number of bilateral agreements.

In the first three months of 1995, the Russian border troops in Tajikistan came under attacks from the militants of the Tajik armed opposition more than 30 times, losing tens of men.

Rakhmanov, UN Envoy Discuss Situation

LD1104172095 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1154 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [no dateline as received] On 11 April, President Emomali Rakhmanov of our country received Mr. Ramiro Piris-Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Tajikistan, at the latter's request.

Emomali Rakhmanov told the special envoy about the explosive situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. He also told him about the measures taken by the republic's leadership to make the situation normal. Messages addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali and to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Council of the Heads of CIS States, about helping to settle the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border were mentioned.

Our country's chief stressed that the republic's leadership is taking all possible measures to guard Tajikistan's frontiers, which are CIS borders as well.

In particular, Emomali Rakhmanov emphasized that the problem of finding a peaceful settlement is still a priority for the republic's leadership, and that we are ready to sit down at the negotiating table without any preconditions.

K. Yuldashev, state adviser to the president, Darko Silovic, head of the UN mission to Tajikistan, and V. Goryayev, adviser to the UN secretary general's special envoy, took part in the meeting.

UN Envoy: Situation 'Critical'

LD1104151095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 11 TASS—Representatives of the Russian border troops met on Tuesday field commanders of paramilitary forces of Tajikistan's self-styled Pamir region. The meeting took place in the city of Khorog, Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, head of the UN Mission in Tajikistan Darko Silovic told a news conference here today.

The representatives of the two sides were trying to come to an agreement to put an end to the armed confrontation triggered by the Tajik opposition.

Silovic said that the Tajik rebel forces did not take part in the talks organized by the U.N. mission in Tajikistan. He did not provide any further details at the news conference.

In another development, U.N. secretary general's special envoy Ramiro Piriz Ballon described the worsening situation in the area of fierce combat as highly dramatic, and put forward a proposal to convene an urgent summit meeting between the Tajik Government and the rebel opposition.

It is the only way to reach a truce, he told Russian reporters. A summit should take place in Moscow, the envoy added.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov supported the idea during a lengthy meeting with Ballon on Tuesday. Now Rakhmanov is awaiting a response from the opposition, Ballon said.

Asked about the fourth round of inter-Tajik dialogue, the envoy said that it had reached crisis point, due to the violations of the inter-Tajik ceasefire agreement.

However, Ballon pointed out that both sides had confirmed that they were interested in finding a political solution to the problem, so they should substantiate their claims with actions aimed at declaring a ceasefire, according to him.

CIS General Urges Restraint

LD1104160695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 11 TASS—Not all the necessary political and diplomatic measures have been taken on the Tajik-Afghan border to prevent the present armed conflict, believes Colonel-General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. It is necessary to suppress the conflict so that it should not spread to large-scale operations, the Russian general said in an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS.

"It is too bad when arms are used", Patrikeyev said. "I believe all problems should be resolved in a peaceful political way, otherwise there will be no result, there will only be loss of life".

Patrikeyev admitted that unless the conflagration of conflict is extinguished at present, there is a real threat of the involvement of other forces in the local military conflict. Patrikeyev said he had made this warming to one of influential leaders of the Pamir's opposition, Salam Mukhabbatov, and urged him to do what he can to stop bloodletting.

Regarding the attitude of the joint peacekeeping forces to the inter-Tajik conflict in Gorno-Badakhshan, Partrikeyev said that the troops under his command assume the stand of non-interference but are fully alerted.

"We act in the framework of decisions of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS. If the Council sets to me any tasks openly I will fulfil them", Patrikeyev said. So far peacekeeping forces stepped up in-depth backing of frontier guards in the zone of their responsibility at the Pyandzh and Moskovskiy directions.

Regarding prospects for settling the inter-Tajik conflict, Patrikeyev said that politicians at every level must show restraint and must not take any actions that can lead to raking the fire of the fratricidal war.

Rakhmanov Speaks at Rally for Slain Soldiers

LD1104175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, April 11 (INTERFAX)—A rally was held in Dushanbe (capital of Tajikistan) on Tuesday to mourn 21 soldiers killed on the Afghan border on April 8, 17 of them Kazakh and four of them Russian.

Speaking at the rally, Tajik President Emomali Rakkmonov said that "the bonds of friendship cemented by blood are eternal." He hopes that CIS states will eventually form a military-political alliance which takes into account their common security interests.

The president spoke of being in full control of the Kalaikhum district in Gorno-Badakhshan.

Government troops and Russian guards lost 29 soldiers in three days of fighting against Tajik rebel units. More than 50 others were injured.

Russians Launch Second Helicopter Strike

LD1104163195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (INTERFAX)— At 9:00, Tuesday, helicopters of the Russian border troops delivered a second missile attack on opposition militants in the region of the First Border Post of the Khorog Detachment in Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan region, the Russian Federal Border Service information agency told Interfax.

Up to 30 militants are reported to have been killed.

Today at dawn, 17 militants were killed by a missile attack. A total of 170 members of Tajik opposition formations have been eliminated during three-days of fighting in the region of the Tajik-Afghan border. Thirty border guards are reported to have been killed.

Five Border Guards, 20 'Militants' Killed

LD1104151495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 11 TASS—The first post of the Khorog border unit has been repulsing attacks of the large armed group of field commander Salam for almost 24 hours.

The border guards are being assisted by the reserve landing force and helicopters. The choppers are making raids on fire positions of the enemy. A total of five border guards had been killed by 3 P.M. local time. There are wounded. Over 20 militants have been killed as well.

Local observers believe that the combat operations have exceeded the limits of a border incident and may blast the situation in whole Tajik Badakhshan where large strong posts of the Movement for Islamic Revival of Tajikistan are located.

The post is being involved in unequal fighting while politicians are calling on the sides for restraint, the peace-keepers' command is voicing its neutrality and the government has done nothing but issued declarations on help to the Khorog border guards.

Tajik Forces To Take 'Main Blow' of Rebels

LD1104173195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1622 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 TASS—The main blow of the advancing rebels on Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan will be taken by government forces, Tajik Premier Jamshed Karimov told TASS today after his meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov. According to Karimov, the question of sending additional Russian troops to the zone of combat actions was not discussed at the meeting.

Under an agreement with Tajikistan, Russia and some other CIS countries keep their border guards on the frontier.

Karimov: Russia Will Not Send Troops

LD1104184595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 TASS—Russia will help Tajikistan, which is repulsing attacks of Islamic opposition on its border with Afghanistan, but is not going to send troops there, the Tajik premier said today.

Tajik Government troops will take the main blow of the attacking rebels, Premier Jamshed Karimov told TASS after his meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov.

According to Karimov, the question of sending additional Russian troops to the zone of combat actions was not even discussed at the meeting.

Under an agreement with Tajikistan, Russia and some other CIS countries keep their border guards on the frontier.

Karimov said, that an agreement had been reached in principle that Moscow would assist "the repulsing of the aggression in conformity with the agreement on (the CIS) collective security". In particular, Russia will boost its supplies of fuel, lubricants and food in exchange for cotton and other raw materials.

Dushanbe hopes to receive at least 57 billion roubles from a total 80-billion loan approved by the Russian parliament already last year, Karimov said.

The Tajik premier was optimistic about further developments in his republic. The achieved stability will help consolidate all groups of the population, all parties around the president, and mobilise our resources and capacities to rebuff the aggression, Karimov said.

Opposition Leader Sets Conditions for Cease-Fire

MK1104080995 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Kolpakov incorporating interview with Turadzhonzada, first deputy chairman of the Movement for the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan: "A Slaughterhouse in the Mountains"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Rezvon Sabirov, commander in chief of the Movement for the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan [MIRT], issued orders to intensify combat actions in the Vanch-Yazgulemsk sector, with a subsequent advance into Garmskiy Rayon. At present the epicenter of combat activity has shifted to Gorno-Badakhshan. The combat operation was started with the aim of exerting pressure on the Tajikistani leadership in order to prevent movement by border guard forces on the territory of Gorno-Badashkhan Oblast. In addition to Russian troops, the Tajikistani Defense Ministry army, units of which were used in assault operations in the Yazgulemsk sector, is taking part in combat operations. It was this assault force which shocked the oppositionists, triggering a war in this region.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS' correspondent asked Turadzhonzada, first deputy chairman of the MIRT and former head of the Tajikistani Muslim Ecclesiastical Administration, who is now in Paris at the invitation of the Aga-khan, to comment on the situation.

"Under the Teheran ceasefire agreement, opposition units remained in Badakhshan; that is to say, where there were no government troops. In February, however, 351 men and officers were airlifted to this area on 18 helicopters. Moreover, on 21 March a battalion of 200 Tajik border guards was sent to control the Khorogsko-Yazgulemsk sector. The troops thus blocked the only road along the Khorog-Yazgulemsk route, which linked Kalay-Khumb and Khorog. (The troops included 58 armor pieces). We asked Russia to remove the troops, but unfortunately they were not moved because Russia did not recognize the Teheran agreement and did not regard its actions as a violation of the agreement. The way we see the situation is this: Russia supports the government of Tajikistan, which wants to lure us into a trap. According to information in our possession, in the very near future a motorized infantry regiment will also be sent here.

"Our demands are that Russia not violate the agreement. Should this be the case, we will take part in the fourth round of negotiations, in Moscow. We consulted General Abaz, chief of the UN military observer mission in Tajikistan. According to him, separate clashes are not a legal violation, but it is desirable to refrain from them. Surrounded, we could not refrain, and therefore started fighting.

"Our demands are as follows: We are ready after 15 April to sit down at the negotiating table in Moscow provided: 1) the Teheran ceasefire agreement is recognized officially; 2) the 351-man unit is removed from Badakhshan; 3) the Yazgulemsk-Vanch road is opened and the 200-man Tajik unit is removed; 4) the functions of Russian troops are limited to border guard duties, with non-involvement in Tajikistan's internal politics. I mean the removal of all check- points from the roads in the Yazgulemsk-Vanch sector."

Islamist Forces Prepare For Spring Offensive

MM1204093495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 3

["Military-Political Review" article by Vitaliy Strugovets: "Hot Springtime in Tajikistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Back in the middle of last year the military-political leadership of the Tajik Islamic Revival Movement [TIRM] defined 1995 as a crucial year for its rise to power in Tajikistan. How is this to be achieved? This became clear on the second day of the new year: In the Kalayi-Khumb Border Detachment's sector TIRM gunmen joined battle with Russian border guards. The events of the next few days only confirmed the TIRM leadership's course of armed confrontation. Since the beginning of 1995 there have been over 100 attacks on Russian border guards. Two or three attacks (bombardments) a day on average. And last Saturday [8 April] the situation, as you know, hotted up to bursting point....

I.

All the Tajik and Russian leadership's attempts to move on to political, peaceful means of settling the conflict are being ignored by the opposition. This is graphically confirmed by the fact that the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks has still not taken place. Scheduled for December, it has already been repeatedly postponed at the request of the TIRM leaders, who are demanding as one of the main conditions for the commencement of the talks the withdrawal of government troops from Gornyy Badakhshan and the removal of the border posts from the Kalayi-Khumb—Khorog Highway. This demand is regrettably meeting with the support of Hasan 'Abbas, leader of the UN mission in Tajikistan. During a meeting with Salam Mukhabbatov, leader of Gornyy Badakhshan, he said that he would promote the withdrawal of the government troops from Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

The need for another round of talks has now become pressing. The agreement on an interim cease-fire on the Tajik-Afghan border and within the republic expires 25 April. Official Dushanbe stated its readiness to extend it back on 6 March. The TIRM military-political leadership has thus far kept quiet. Why?

Analysis of the situation that has taken shape in and around Tajikistan shows that the TIRM leaders, convinced of the impossibility of coming to power by democratic means, as the elections held recently in the republic confirmed, have placed the main emphasis on armed struggle. And 25 April—the day the agreement expires—may be the official day on which wide-ranging combat operations begin.

II.

Presumably the opposition is planning to carry out the main attack from Gornyy Badakhshan in the direction of the settlement of Tavil-Dara in order to get directly to Dushanbe via the Garm group of rayons. Employing "stealthy infiltration tactics" the TIRM leadership is trying to move additional groups of gunmen and new arms and munitions shipments into Gornyy Badakhshan. Here it is banking on the oblast's Vanchsksiy and Darvazskiy Rayons, where Tajik opposition forces are to mass.

According to current information, TIRM leaders believe that this summer the opposition detachments' combat operations in the Garm group of rayons would take place against a backdrop of "spontaneous demonstrations by a population unhappy with the serious economic position" against the current Tajik leadership. The underground opposition in Tajikistan must orchestrate these very "sentiments."

Combat operations will most likely begin simultaneously on the border and within the country. A grouping of Islamists concentrated in the Afghan border area in the Vakhshiy, Pyandzhskiy, Moskovskiy, and Ishkashimskiy sectors with the support of underground opposition formations in Tajikistan's border regions will try to pin down government forces and Russian troops on the border in order to prevent their maneuvering and regrouping to rebuff an offensive in the main, Pamir, sector (the Kalayi-Khumb and Khorog Border Detachments' area).

Previous experience indicates that the opposition intends to conduct armed provocations on the border in small mobile groups using guerrilla warfare tactics. According to current information, at present hard-line formations are geared to conducting sabotage and acts of terrorism, notably using modern mines and explosive devices, toxins, and toxic agents, in order to create tension within the republic and on the border.

Specialists think that Dzhunaydullo's group of over 250 gunmen based in the Afghan villages of Moy-May [as transliterated] and Nusay (opposite the Kalayi-Khumb

Border Detachment's No. 5 border outpost area) poses the greatest danger in the Kalayi-Khumb sector. The opposition is continuing to pay close attention to the Shuroabad sector to which some of the gunmen of the so-called "Pyandzh front" (around 300 men) were recently moved.

Incidentally, TIRM armed formations have bought two Mi-8 helicopters and "surface-to-surface" launchers with a range of around 50 km, which will enable them to bombard from Afghan territory, for instance, the border aviation airfield in the settlement of Moskovskiy and the border detachment's headquarters.

Persistent clashes within the TIRM leadership are having a definite effect on the Tajik opposition gunmen's activity on the border and within the country. According to some reports, Said Nuri, having removed Rizvon Sadirov from the leadership of the TIRM armed formations, is trying to consolidate his political leadership by military force and to obtain additional support from the authorities in certain Muslim states which are funding the opposition's activity.

Now let me say a few words about the opposition leaders.

Said Abdullo Nuri (Abdullo Nuritdinovich Saidov) was born in 1947 in Khatlon Oblast. He was one of the organizers of the armed opposition detachments in 1986-1989. He headed the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast armed formations 1991 through 1992. He organized the bloody events in Dushanbe in 1992. That summer he took an active part in the genocide against people from Kulyab. In December he illegally crossed into Afghanistan. He is currently head of the Tajik "government in exile." He is a rabid fundamentalist, the most influential person in the opposition leadership.

Rizvon Alimardonovich Sadirov. He is a member of the "government in exile" and the TIRM Jihad Council, until recently commander in chief of the Tajik opposition armed forces, and the most influential and prestigious field commander. He was personally involved in the mass repressions against the civilian population, the execution of security and militia personnel in 1992, and in organizing the killing of Tajik General Prosecutor Khunaydullayev as well as the personnel of the "Vostok-Merkuriy" Joint-Stock Company (18 people). He is cruel, power-hungry, and mistrustful of those around him. He is fanatically committed to the ideas of Islam.

Khakim "Bangi" (Khakim Kalandarov). He was born in 1965 in Khatlon Oblast's Pyandzhskiy Rayon. He joined a criminal grouping. He took an active part in the fighting against people's front formations in 1992 in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast and also in the Garm region in August and September 1994. At present he is leading the combat groups in the Pyandzh sector.

Dzhunaydullo. He commands the battalion of Tajik opposition forces in the Kalayi-Khumb sector. He organized the armed operations against border subunits in this sector 11 December 1994 and 2 January 1995 as a result of which 10 Russian border guards died.

III.

How do the two states most interested in the speediest settlement of the conflict—Russia and Afghanistan—react to the possibility of its expansion?

The Russian Group of Border Forces in Tajikistan, which currently numbers around 17,000 men, along with subunits of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division and battalions of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, is ready to perform its tasks in line with the existing treaties on the protection of the external borders of the republic and the CIS. On the eve of a possible spring or summer offensive by TIRM gunmen an additional 10 Russian Border Guard motorized maneuver groups have been sent to Tajikistan. But, as Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, director of the Russian Federal Border Service, stressed during a recent meeting with journalists, there is no military solution to the problem. People in Afghanistan also seem to have realized that. Thanks to the actions taken by certain Afghan leaders it has proved possible to stabilize the situation in a number of sections of the Tajik-Afghan border. Thus, there are virtually no violations in the Pyandzh Border Detachment's right flank region. General Usto, commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade, is not allowing gunmen into his zone of responsibility—Khounskiy Rayon. And Ahmad Shah Masud recently stated in Kabul that the Afghan authorities are willing to exert a "deterrent effect" on TIRM leaders.

Regrettably, the recent bloody events on the Tajik-Afghan border leave no room for doubt that the Afghan leadership is not in control of the situation. There are also plenty of questions arising with regard to TIRM leader Khadzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda's recent visit to Moscow. Either the high-ranking envoy is unable to control the opposition armed detachments that are allegedly under his jurisdiction or his diplomatic mission was no more than a cover to hide his true intentions. But, come what may, one thing is obvious today—the truce has been wrecked even before it expires and it will now be incredibly hard to return the process to the negotiating table. Nonetheless there is still a chance of that. It is directly dependent on the position espoused by all the states interested in the constructive resolution of the inter-Tajik conflict.

Talks Between Russians, Tajik Opposition Deadlocked

LD1204082895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0738 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 12 TASS—A political dialogue between the command of Russian border troops in Tajikistan and the leaders of the armed Pamirs opposition was conducted to the thunder of a cannonade.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of the command of the Russian border troops this morning that the talks between the command and the leaders of Badakhshan self-defence detachments on a temporary ceasefire, which started in the Pamirs on Tuesday with assistance from the United Nations, ended in a deadlock.

The situation at the Vanchskiy section of the Pamirs border remains extremely tense, while gunmen of the Tajik Islam Revival Movement continue to fire from the rear at the first post of the horog border detachment.

A representative of the command noted that the post has been waging a defensive battle since April 10.

Borderguards also express anxiety over the situation at the Moskovskiy and Pyandzh sections of the Tajik-Afghan border: Gunmen of the Tajik opposition continue active movements in adjacent Afghan border areas.

The command takes additional measures at these sections to protect the border. Units of the collective peacekeeping force stationed in Tajikistan, above all the 201st Russian Motorised Division, render support to borderguards at these sections.

Moscow To Assist Tajikistan in Strengthening Army

LD1204100495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—Russia will assist Tajikistan in strengthening its national Army, which is repelling attacks by opposition detachments. Tajikistan Prime Minister Jamshed Karimov said in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that a relevant accord had been attained at his talks today with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Bolshakov.

Asked whether this assistance will include supplies of military hardware, the prime minister said that "assistance will be given across the whole range of issues related to developing the Republic's power structures." He confirmed that the Tajik Armed Forces will accept the main thrust of the attacking opposition detachments. At the same time, Jamshed Karimov remarked that Russian border guards were honorably coping with their functions in protecting mountain borders.

The head of the Tajik cabinet said that ways to step up economic ties between our countries were being discussed at the Moscow talks, too. Specifically, an accord was attained on setting up Russian-Tajik financial and industrial groups.

The Tajik prime minister reckons to meet Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov in the Russian capital. They are to discuss the issues of developing Tajikistan's monetary and financial system. Jamshed Karimov is likely to hold consultations with heads of Russian power structures, too.

Rakhmanov Confirms Readiness To Negotiate

LD1204105395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By KHOVAR correspondent Andrey Sidorin for ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 12 TASS—The Tajik Government is ready to arrive in Moscow in the next few days for the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, president Emomali Rakhmanov told U.N. secretary general's special envoy in his republic Ramiro Perez Ballon on Wednesday.

The envoy informed the president about the efforts being made by international organisations to achieve a ceasefire agreement on the Tajik-Afghan border and begin inter-Tajik talks as soon as possible.

Ballon highly assessed the firm position of Rakhmanov in order to achieve a lasting peace and full stability not only on the Tajik-Afghan border, but in the whole region as well.

Rakhmanov, in his turn, praised the United Nations and personally its Secretary General Butrus-Ghali for the efforts aimed at restoring peace in the region, and reiterated his readiness to hold talks with the opposition on implementing the Tehran ceasefire agreement.

New Parliament's Membership Called 'Pro-Presidential'

MK0704081195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p

[Report by Oleg Panfilov in the "In Brief" column: "Majlisi Oli in Session"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first session of the new parliament—Majlisi Oli (Supreme Assembly)—opened in Dushanbe yesterday. The parliament includes only one representative of the intelligentsia—poet Mekhmon Bakhti; the rest are former [Communist] Party and management apparatchiks. Of national minorities, there are two Russians, two Kirghizes, and about 20 Uzbeks. The overwhelming majority—nearly 60 percent—are Communists; some 40 deputies used to be gunmen and commanders of the militarized People's Front; and several of them are former convicts of criminal misdeeds. In addition to traditional kolkhoz chairmen and sovkhoz directors, over 20 people are heads of law-enforcement bodies at different levels—affiliated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Security. The remaining deputies are leaders of rayon, city, and oblast administrations, appointed by Emomali Rakhmonov's edict. Thus, the parliament's composition can be considered entirely pro-presidential. However, the success of the first session will largely depend on the election of Majlisi Oli's chairman.

Parliament Appoints Prosecutor General, Other Officials

LD0704211095 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the afternoon the people's deputies set about electing a chairman for the committee for state structure. Rafiqa Musoyeva, a people's deputy from Dushanbe, was elected to this post. The people's deputies also elected members of the committees and commissions of the Supreme Assembly, and members of the presidium of the Supreme Assembly. [passage omitted]

The people's deputies also discussed the appointment of the prosecutor general and his deputies. Amirqul Azimov, who previously worked as a state adviser to the president of the Republic of Tajikistan, was appointed prosecutor general of the republic at the president's request.

On [President] Emomali Rakhmanov's proposal, the people's deputies also gave their assent to the appointment of the chairman of the National Bank, Alimordonov. At today's meeting, the deputy chairmen of the National Bank and members of the Supreme Court were appointed. We remind you that the chairman of the Supreme Court was appointed at the earlier meeting of the Supreme Assembly.

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov Receives Turkish Ambassador

LD1104165495 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1156 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 7 April [date as received]—Saparmurad Turkmenbashi [Niyazov] received Selcuk Incesu, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Turkish Republic to Turkmenistan, [name and title as received] this afternoon.

The ambassador passed to the head of state a message from [Turkish President] Suleyman Demirel, in which the Turkish leader expressed his satisfaction at the progress in the development of bilateral relations. In his letter, the Turkish president suggested that Saparmurad Turkmenbashi should consider the question of the participation of the large Turkish company STPA [expansion unknown] in reconstructing the port of Turkmenbashi.

Mr. Incesu noted that Turkmenistan's initiative for setting up a zone of peace and stability on its territory had evoked broad resonance in Turkey. Implementation of this idea will promote the stabilization of the political situation in the region, he said.

In addition, prospects for further cooperation, in particular the training of personnel and the reconstruction of Ashgabat, were discussed during the talks.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Urges Tajik Rebels To Eschew Military Means

LD1104173595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT, April 11 (Interfax)—Uzbek President Islam Karimov urged the armed Tajik opposition to give up military means for attaining their goals as "they go against the interests of Tajik citizens," and condemned their "provocations", says the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's statement circulated in Tashkent on Tuesday [11 April].

The document says that the situation has sharply deteriorated on the Tajik-Afghan border, and that Russian and Kazakh servicemen have been killed in clashes initiated by the armed militants from Afghan territory.

"The Republic of Uzbekistan is making strong efforts to continue the inter-Tajik dialogue, to achieve national reconciliation and to establish stable peace in Tajikistan," says the statement.

During last week's talks in Tashkent Karimov and representatives of the Tajik opposition stated that "political dialogue, and the search for mutual compromises without any external pressure are the sole way of overcoming the crisis in Tajikistan," says the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's statement.

German President Herzog Arrives, Met by Karimov

LD1104154895 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Federal President Dr. Roman Herzog arrived on an official visit to our country today. A welcoming ceremony was held at Tashkent airport to welcome the high-ranking guest. President Roman Herzog and his wife were met by our republic's president, Islam Karimov, and his wife. Girls in national dress offered red flowers to the guest. An honor guard was lined up for the high-ranking guest at the airport, which was decorated with the state flags of the two countries. The Uzbek and German national anthems were played.

After that the members of the two delegations accompanied by their presidents went to the Alisher Navoi national park in Tashkent.

Further on Herzog's Arrival, Agenda

LD1104165795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1450 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Nyazmatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent April 11 TASS—FRG President Roman Herzog arrived here for an official visit today. Several documents are expected to be signed during his talks with Uzbek President Islam Karimov. They include agreements on economic and cultural cooperation, free movement of citizens, and on military cemeteries. The sides will also release a joint political statement, creating the foundation for the further promotion of their bilateral relations.

Herzog is expected to meet the speaker of the Uzbek parliament, several scientific, cultural and art personalities, as well as representatives of the local German diaspora.

The three-day agenda of the German president's stay in Uzbekistan includes visits to Samarkand and Bukhara, where he will admire some masterpieces of oriental architecture, for which these most ancient cities of the planet are famous.

Karimov, Herzog Discuss Ties, Sign Agreements

LD1104191495 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have just received a report on the talks between the state delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and Uzbekistan.

[Unidentified correspondent] Talks have just ended at the Palace of Friendship between the full official delegations of the two countries. Presidents Islam Karimov and Roman Herzog discussed forms of cooperation, the potential of which has yet to be fully utilized.

Currently, the economic sphere is the gravitational center of the developing cooperation between our countries. However, the spectrum of mutually advantageous and long-term relations includes such areas of modern life as science, technology, and other fields. [passage omitted]

The talks between the heads of the external affairs departments resulted in the signing of the following documents:

—a joint declaration on the basis of relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Germany;

—an intergovernmental agreement on lifting travel restrictions; and

—an intergovernmental agreement on military burial-grounds.

After the signing ceremony, the presidents of the two countries answered questions from Uzbek and German journalists.

Karimov, Herzog Comment on Talks, Relations

LD1204081595 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Uzbek 1600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An official visit of German Federal President Roman Herzog to the Republic of Uzbekistan began today. [passage omitted]

There were agreements on matters relating to the graves of German soldiers in Uzbekistan. Documents were signed by the heads of the Foreign Ministries of the two countries. After the signing of the documents the presidents answered questions put by the journalists who were present.

The German federal president said: This is my first visit to Tashkent, but I have to say that I am very satisfied with the changes that have occurred here. They are the result of the farsighted and well-thought-out policies carried out by President Islam Karimov. For this reason, interest in Uzbekistan is increasing in the world. For instance, people in Germany highly appreciate the rich natural resources and potential of Uzbekistan. We may bring our advanced technologies here, and this will be useful for both countries. Now we have planned the prospects of future cooperation and we will conduct work on this basis.

[Begin Karimov recording] I want to say only that we have every reason to think that our relations will develop not only along economic lines but also in all other areas—the coordination of diplomacy, policies, and so on. [end recording]

German Economic Center To Be Built in Tashkent

LD1104164495 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A total of 14 joint enterprises involving German capital have been registered so far in our republic. Among them are (Uzagrohizmat), (Masud Teks), (Sharq Yulduzi), (Albatros), and other joint ventures. Additionally, 13 representative offices of well known German firms have been accredited at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including (Ferrostal), (Nibesso), Siemens AG, Lufthansa and others.

Given that business ties are to be expanded in future—and the German president's visit will do much to promote this—it has become necessary to construct a building for German businessmen in Tashkent.

An agreement has been achieved with (Jenoptik) GmbH on building a German Economic House in Tashkent, where the offices of all German firms and joint ventures will be situtated. The house will have a small hotel complex, with a restaurant and conference hall available. It will serve as a meeting place for businessmen from Germany and Uzbekistan.

The (Jenoptik) GmbH firm is investing approximately 25-30 million German marks for the construction of the German Economic House. It is envisaged that the House will start operating in autumn 1996. [passage omitted]

Prospects for technological and economic partnership are opening up, but Uzbek-German cooperation is already yielding solid results. Bilateral memorandums have been signed between the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the major German engineering and metallurgical companies Krupp and Thyssen for cooperation to modernize metallurgical, engineering, chemical and mining complexes in the republic, the railway networks and the agrarian sector.

German entrepreneurs and businessmen will become frequent visitors to Uzbekistan. The German Economic House will become a symbol of partnership and cooperation between the two countries.

Central Asian Financial Training Center Set Up

LD0804115995 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A year ago founding documents were signed in Tashkent on setting up the Regional Banking Training Centre (RBTC) - a specialized institute for training, retraining and testing workers in the banking system of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Apart from banks in these countries, the founders of the training center were: the European Community Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Turkish government, and the Association of Turkish Banks. They have made considerable contributions to the formation of the initial capital and to training teaching staff from the region's countries, and took upon themselves all the expenses connected with inviting Western teachers and experts to conduct lessons and special seminars. Recently 500 people from the region's central and commercial banks have undergone training. At the same time the organizational formation of the centre has taken place.

Professors, senior lecturers and assistant lectures from the country's and region's leading economic higher education establishments were taken on after thorough selection. All of them underwent a special training program of the Italian Italtrend centre at the training center of the association of Turkish banks and Moscow international financial-banking school, as well as at a seminar organized by German teachers.

Programs for basic courses for managers and operational workers have been developed with the help of foreign experts. And special programmes for in-depth study of particular aspects of banking activities have been prepared. This is particularly important just now as the process of the creation of commercial banks is taking place in the republic: over the last year alone a network of branch banking has been established - the Savdogar Bank, the Ghalla Bank, the Mevasabzavot Bank and Legprombank. All of them have the right to conduct all operations envisaged in the law of the republic of Uzbekistan on banks and banking activities.

Comparing the organizational structures of banks in the West and in Uzbekistan allows the weak and strong points of these systems to be found and everything positive to be adopted.

The Regional Banking Training Centre has an excellent material base. Its training classes and administrative services are located on two floors of the training department of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy which was rebuilt by Turkish builders. Its lecture-halls are equipped with special furniture and modern training equipment. And work has started on the formation of an information base.

The training center plans to publish a quarterly bulletin and training materials.

So the Regional Banking Training Centre is ready for major work to raise the level of professional skill of bank employees in the region.

Extending cooperation between banks and the training centre would, to some extent, resolve the problem of training specialists for all the country's banks.

Armenia

President Meets Bulgarian Prime Minister in Sofia

LD1204074395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1731 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Abrosimov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sofia, 11 Apr—President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan, currently on an official visit to Bulgaria, had a meeting today with Zhan Videnov, head of the Bulgarian Government. They had a detailed exchange of opinions on the prospects of developing cooperation between the two countries. It was stated among other things that both Bulgaria and Armenia are located in zones of acute regional conflicts; when these conflicts have settled down, both countries will be able to develop a full-blown cooperation so as to progress more dynamically along the path of democratic reforms.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan also had a meeting today with representatives of the Armenian community. There are approximately 20,000 Armenians living in Bulgaria, most of them the descendants of those Armenians who had to leave their homeland because of the genocide under the Ottoman Empire.

Iranian, Turkmen, Armenian Ministers Sign Accord

NC1104190795 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1013 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 11/04/95 NOYAN TAPAN—Having finished the consultation on trilateral economic cooperation, on April 8, the Foreign Ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia signed a decree on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific and technical spheres in Tehran.

The Iranian sources report that Armenia and Turkmenistan, underlining the strategic geographical situation of Iran, voiced satisfaction as far as the possibility of product transit via Iran and links with countries of the Persian Bay [Gulf] are concerned. In trade sphere the three countries agreed to take necessary measures for improving the barter.

Concluding the meeting the Foreign Ministers of the three countries agreed to run the next consultation in Ashgabat.

On the basis of the adopted treaties the Ministers announced bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the spheres of transportation, transit, trade, economy, banking, energy and a joint statement was published.

According to the radio station "Voice of Iran", the Iranian economic and political experts think that Iran, in view of its geographical situation, acquires a new position. The interest of the regional countries in development of mutual cooperation and the constant efforts of Iran for better use of economic potentials of those countries-members of the Economic Cooperation Organization ECO fastened the process of economic cooperation.

The same source reports that the Armenian Foreign Minister Papazian voiced a hope that Armenia would participate in the sessions of countries-members of ECO as an observer. Earlier, the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan have pointed out during one of his meeting with his Iranian counterpart that Armenia wished to join the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments on Talks

LD1104191395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1406 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 11 April—Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Ziloyan has assessed as successful the results of a trilateral meeting between Iranian, Armenian, and Turkmen representatives which took place in Tehran on Saturday. Speaking at a news-conference today, he noted that mainly prospects for economic cooperation were discussed at talks.

The sides expressed readiness to further develop economic cooperation, agreed on transit transportation from Armenia to Turkmenistan and back through Iranian territory, to allow Iran to move its goods through the CIS territory and set up a trilateral joint transport enterprise. The Turkmen side suggested to tranport gas, fuel and electricity for Armenia through Iran. The deputy minister said that this issue requires further serious discussions.

An important role in developing economic cooperation in the region belongs to a bridge, which is being constructed now, over the border river Araks. It will become a joint property of the two countries.

All issues of economic cooperation between Iran and Armenia, in particular, the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Armenia, will be discussed in detail during a visit to Tehran by Chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers Grant Bagratyan in May.

In reply to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent the diplomat said that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh was not discussed during the trilateral meeting.

Russia's Kazimirov Cited on Karabakh Conflict

NC1104191695 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1139 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 11/04/95 NOYAN TAPAN—The Foreign Ministry's special envoy, Russian President's personal representative at the negotiations on Karabakh problem Vladimir Kazimirov stated in the interview to the Azeri news agency "AYNA-Miracle": "Until there is no confidence that the conflicting parties hold more flexible and constructive position the mediators will not hurry up with fixing new terms for negotiations. Otherwise, it would mean the devaluation of the efforts of the International Community, when the sides do not respond to the assistance they are rendered, and lead the situation towards an impasse by loading of procedural questions and mutual pretensions".

The Russian diplomat also said that the regular consultations of the Minsk Group can be held only after the date for the negotiations between the conflicting sides is fixed. "And the mediators need that the sides confirm their wish on resumption of the dialogue", Kazimirov said.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Seen Giving Priority to U.S. Demands in Oil Deal

MK1104125595 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Aydyn Mekhtiyev under the "Fuel" rubric: "Baku Is Looking for Partners and Money. 'Contract of the Century' Is Driving Azerbaijan Closer to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijani government continues to search for sources of financing for its part of the "contract of the century" dealing with the development oil deposits in the Caspian Sea. As is known, earlier Teheran had agreed to act as a guarantor of Azerbaijan's ability to fulfill its financial obligations—asking in return, however, for five percent of Baku's total share of the contract. But the Board of Directors of the Western companies' consortium—under pressure from Washington—refused to approve this initiative. As a result, the question of Iran's participation in the contract was removed from the agenda. Teheran itself, however, does not think so. According to Ashraf Suleimani, Iran's deputy ambassador in Azerbaijan, who was interviewed by KHABAR-SERVIS, Teheran has as yet received no official notification from the Azerbaijani leadership that Iran cannot participate in the project. Therefore, according to Suleimani, the oil industry cooperation agreement, signed between the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan and the Iranian oil agency, is still valid; so, negotiations should be continued.

Meanwhile, observers in Baku do not share the optimism of the Iranian side. In a situation where Washington continues to regard Iran as a state supporting international terrorism, Baku can not advertise its friendly relations with its southern neighbor. Otherwise, the future of American-Azerbaijani relations might be jeopardized.

As is known, the dialogue between Baku and Washington was initiated in September 1994 in New York during the meeting of presidents Geydar Aliyev and Bill Clinton. The head of the American administration could not fulfill his promise, given to Aliyev, on the abolition of the discriminatory amendment to the Freedom Support Act banning any aid to Azerbaijan. This was due to the fact that, as a result of the election, the Republicans had gained a majority in the U.S. Senate. In addition, Aliyev has not yet received a promised invitation to visit Washington officially. Geydar Aliyev had to deal with two attempted coups d'etat over the period since he met Clinton in September. In this connection, the American administration expressed its concern over the fate of democracy in Azerbaijan and urged Aliyev to hold a parliamentary election on a democratic basis. Thus, the threat of deterioration in Azerbaijani-American relations compels Aliyev to make steps toward his overseas partner, who—together with London—holds the leading position in the consortium of companies participating in the development of oil deposits in the Caspian Sea. Aliyev indeed made one such step last week: On his order, the Exxon Company—one of the U.S. oil giants—received its share in the development of the Caspian shelf oil deposits. During his meeting with Tim Seika, company's vice president, Aliyev said: "Since the 'contract of the century' was signed, many oil companies have begun to show their interest in Azerbaijan; after we were contacted by U.S. official authorities, however, we have chosen the Exxon Company." Aliyev said that Exxon's participation in the "contract of century" will make it possible to develop Azerbaijani-American relations at a new level. This company has received five percent of the Azerbaijani oil company's share under the contract.

Milli Mejlis Acts on Agenda Items

NC1104192195 Baku TURAN in English 1231 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 11) TURAN—Another session of the Milli Mejlis began today. The agenda of the session includes eight items: liquidation of regime of state of emergency in Ganja; election of People's assessor to the Supreme Court; introduction of changes and amendments in the Criminal Code of the republic of Azerbaijan; of draft of law on rehabilitation of victims of political repressions of 1930s; the legislation on tender and several other issues.

The Milli Mejlis annulled the regime of the state of emergency in the second large city of Azerbaijan Ganja by 35 votes. The term expired on April 10 and there was no necessity to prolong it. The state of emergency was imposed in Ganja on October 10, 1994 after the coup attempt by the supporters of the Ex-Premier, Suret Huseynov.

The Deputy Mirmahmud Fattayev told the speaker that on April 10 the Popular Front received the letter from Baku's Commandant, Maharram Aliyev, who again prohibited conduction of the Congress of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan]. Deputy Fattayev recalled that during the last session Rasul Guliyev promised to give permission for holding of the Congress.

The speaker said that he knows nothing concerning this point and he promised to clear up why the Commandant refused to permit the PFA Congress. The Milli Mejlis continues its work.

Number of People Detained Illegally in March Released

NC1104200795 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Announcer-read statement issued by the press service of Azerbaijan's Prosecutor's Office]

[FBIS Translated Text] Police and other security organs had detained a group of citizens near the headquarters of the former Special Purpose Police Detachment at 8th Kilometer on 17 March 1995 for violating the Azerbaijani law on the state of emergency. The Baku police department had taken disciplinary measures against them and, in keeping with the existing laws, obtained a ruling from the Nizami district people's court for their imprisonment for a short period [word indistinct] as a disciplinary measure.

An inspection by the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic revealed that 73 of these people have been imprisoned on unfounded grounds. In view of this, Nizami district people's court has been instructed to annul the sentences concerning them and to release these people from prison.

Nizami district people's court took up this issue and adopted decisions to release the people in question.

The Azerbaijan Prosecutor's Office is investigating violations of law [words indistinct] in connection with the incident in question. The Republic's Prosecutor's Office declares that while instituting criminal proceedings against every person involved in the coup attempt, measures are also being taken to prevent the illegal institution of criminal proceedings against (?innocent) citizens.

Georgia

Attacks by 'Wolves,' Authorities' Response Scored

MM1104134695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov: "Will 'Wolf' Hunters Be Found? Last Weekend in Tbilisi Was Marked by Acts of Terrorism Against Russians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—The anniversary of the 9 April events was marked in Tbilisi not only by peaceful demonstrations and commemorative rallies. At 0500 hours unidentified persons fired automatic weapons on the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus [GRFT] Headquarters. The guards opened fire in return and then the attackers fled. Fortunately, there were no casualties and the building suffered negligible damage.

The "Wolves of Algeti" [Algetskiye Volki] organization claimed responsibility for the action. The attackers left several notes at the scene of the crime in which they indicated that "this action is revenge for the war which Russia has unleashed in Chechnya as well as a response to the signing of the Treaty on the Siting of Russian Military Bases in the Republic of Georgia."

The GRFT command viewed the incident as a provocation by bandit and hooligan groupings of people who do not like the thaw in relations between the two states and armies and warned of the possible consequences of a repeat of such acts of terrorism.

That same night a loud explosion rang out in front of the residence of Vladimir Zemskiy, the Russian ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to the Republic of Georgia. A group of six strangers attacked the guard on the ambassador's residence and disarmed them. The criminals also claimed to be gunmen from the "Wolves of Algeti" organization. The Russian Embassy sent a protest note to the Georgian Foreign Ministry in connection with the attempted act of terrorism.

...It is six years since the Tbilisi tragedy. Every year it is marked not just by prayers for the dead but also by criminal actions against Russians in the republic. How long will this anarchy go on? And how long will the various "wolves," to hunt down whom in earnest the authorities cannot find the manpower, roam around Russian military installations?

Russian Commander Discusses Peacekeeping in Abkhazia

LD1204102495 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1315 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zugdidi—Major General Yuriy Kozlov, acting commander of Russian peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, had a meeting in Zugdidi on 10 April with Georgian observers in the conflict zone and the Zugdidi and Gali heads of local administration.

Gen. Kozlov assured the Georgian side that as long as he remained in his post he would not allow a repetition of the recent tragedy in Gali. (On 10-14 March Abkhaz police carried out ethnic cleansing in the Georgian villages of Gali District.) From now on there would only be 90, instead of 300, Abkhaz police deployed in Gali District.

Discussing the situation at the Inguri hydroelectric power station, Kozlov said that it had been placed under the increased protection of Russian peacekeepers, which was being carried out by a company of soldiers. Therefore, the Abkhaz side would no longer be able to exert pressure on Georgia by switching off its electricity supply.

The Georgian side demanded that the Abkhaz authorities release 19 Georgian fishermen who had been arrested more than a month ago when their ship, the Spartak, carrying citrus fruit and tea from Batumi to Sochi, was detained near Pitsunda.

Nadareishvili Discusses Bases With Russian Envoy

LD1104165995 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1404 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Issued by "the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The deputy prime minister of Georgia and the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, Tamaz Nadareishvili, today received the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Georgia, Vladimir Zemskiy.

Nadareishvili, on behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, stressed that the terrorist act which had occurred several days ago in front of the Russian Embassy, proved that some elements did not desire good-neighborly relations between Georgia and Russia and the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict. Nadareishvili briefed the guest on the results of his visit to Moscow, and said that the visit was significant for speeding up the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict.

It was noted at the meeting that the recently initialled agreement on handing the military bases over to Russia—according to which the bases will be subjected to the Commander of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus, Fyodor Reut and the Georgian commander-in-chief, Eduard Shevardnadze—was very significant as the above document included the Gudauta military base, and excluding the Gudauta military base would be impermissible if Georgia's territorial integrity was to be considered.

In the end of the meeting, Zemskiy assured Nadareishvili of the embassy's assistance in settling the Abkhaz issue.

Smyr Claims 'Sabotage' Groups Expanding Activities

LD1104230495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sochi, 11 April—Zurab Smyr, the Abkhazian foreign minister, has noted that the sabotage groups that penetrate Abkhazia from Zugdidi rayon of Georgia, have expanded their activities. His statement stresses that activities of saboteurs have already spread from the security zone in Gali rayon to the arms-restriction zone—Tkvarcheli rayon in Abkhazia, where on 9 April workers of the "Kolkhor" collective farm were attacked. As a result of this, five people were seriously wounded.

"The government of Abkhazia has warned the command of the peace-keeping forces and UN military observers on more than one occasion that, according to the information at their disposal, sabotage groups will become more active by mid-April," Zurab Smyr stresses.

Estonia

Vahi To Present Cabinet 12 Apr; Expected Members Listed

WS1104132395 Tallinn BNS in English 1304 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 11, BNS—Estonian prime minister in waiting, Tiit Vahi, will Wednesday present the list of his government for President Lennart Meri's approval, Vahur Glaase, member of the Coalition Party faction in parliament, told BNS Monday.

If Vahi fails to present the list on Wednesday, his mandate to form the government will expire, Glaase said.

Vahi met with Meri at the president's residence in Kadriorg Tuesday morning.

Glaase said the coalition council will gather for a meeting Tuesday night. It is expected then to confirm the new Cabinet, he said.

In addition to the ten names on the Cabinet list disclosed last week, Glaase named Kalev Kallo as the candidate for the transportation and communications portfolio and Liina Tonisson as the future economics minister. Both are members of the Center Party.

Coalition Party and Rural Union (KMU) alliance's Jaan Ots is slated to be the new agriculture minister and Uno Veering, also a KMU member, has been nominated for the post of state secretary.

The ten previously released candidate ministers are Vahi for the premiership, Edgar Savisaar for interior affairs, Paul Varul for justice, Riivo Sinijarv for foreign affairs, Andrus Oovel for defense, Siiri Oviir for social affairs, Peeter Kreitzberg for culture and education, Villu Reiljan for environment, Jaak Allik for culture and Endel Lippmaa for European affairs. The last two are ministers without portfolio.

It is not yet clear who is to get the finance and regional affairs portfolios. Glaase said three candidates are in the running for the former and two, for the latter. Both posts are to go to the KMU alliance.

Coalition Council Revokes Bill on Suspending Privatization

WS1204110395 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 11, BNS—A meeting of the Coalition Party and Rural Union alliance (KMU)/Center Party coalition council Tuesday decided to take back a bill on suspending privatization submitted for consideration in parliament last week. The reason for this is that the bill had not been coordinated with the coalition council, Kaia Jappinen, the council's press secretary, told BNS.

The Country People's Party and Farmers' Assembly parliamentary faction last Thursday moved a bill on suspending all transactions with state property until such time as the new government determines if they are economically expedient. In essence, this means that privatization and many bankruptcy proceedings will be suspended indefinitely.

Country People's Party and Farmers' Assembly faction Chairman Andrus Varik said in the covering letter to the bill that, since the Privatization Agency and bankruptcy administrators "have become especially busy now, on the eve of the installment of the new government, it is obviously necessary that the parliament put a stop to a process that is endangering our economy and bring needed clarity into the privatization and bankruptcy policies."

As examples of transactions that jeopardize the state's interests, Varik named the planned privatization of the state-owned Kehra Paber and Silmet companies.

No Solution Yet to 'Fishing War' With Latvia

WS1204123695 Tallinn BNS in English 1217 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—Tuesday's meeting between Estonian and Latvian negotiators in Riga did not bring a solution to the "fishing war" between the two countries. Latvia threatened to take the issue to the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Foreign Ministry press service told BNS the Latvian delegation maintained that Estonian border guard should not prevent Latvian vessels from fishing in Estonian waters. In connection with this, Latvia is considering taking the dispute over the sea border to the Hague court.

The main bone of contention is the fish-rich neighborhood of the island of Ruhnu, which belongs to the Estonian economic zone. Latvian fishermen are prone to disregard this and often violate the sea border in this area. Lately the vessels of Estonia's southern neighbor fishing in this area have been accompanied by warships.

Estonian and Latvian prime ministers signed March 13 a protocol on mutual understanding, under which both parties pledged to avoid fishing in the other side's economic zone until the boundaries are clearly defined and coordinated.

At the round of talks in Riga on Tuesday, the two delegations reached agreement that the sea border between Estonia and Latvia and both countries' economic zones have to be determined on the basis of international law, particularly the 1982 U.N. convention on maritime law.

The Foreign Ministry informs that Latvia has no pretensions about the stretch of the borderline running from the Sorve Peninsula in Saaremaa Island to Cape Ovis in the Irben Straits. The Latvian delegation confirmed this in Riga.

The meeting in Riga got stuck over the wording of a final document. The Estonian delegation wanted the protocol to cover the issues discussed that day, whereas the Latvian side sought a reflection of only their point of view, the Foreign Ministry press service informs.

After 11 hours of negotiations, the parties conceded failure to sign a joint protocol on the course of the talks.

Nevertheless, the Estonian delegation reaffirmed at the end of the talks readiness to solve the question through negotiation and proposed that the next round of talks be held early next month in the Estonian seaside resort of Parnu.

Latvia

Foreign Policy Unlikely To Change After Elections

LD1104195195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1847 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, April 11 (Interfax) - Latvia's foreign policy is unlikely to change after the parliamentary elections next autumn, Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs told a news conference in Riga Tuesday.

"There appeared a kind of national unity on foreign policy," he remarked referring to last week's parliamentary hearings of the outline plan of the republic's foreign relations policy until 2005. "Most deputies voiced remarks and additions to the tactics to achieve foreign policy goals, but they did not question the choice of the goals," he added.

Last Friday, the Saeima (parliament) approved Latvia's foreign policy guidelines until 2005 developed by the Foreign Ministry and approved by the republic's government in February.

According to the documents, Latvia's priorities are closer integration with the European Union, participation in the West European Union's activities and preparation for joining NATO by involvement in the Partnership for Peace program.

With Russia, Latvia intends to maintain "good-neighborly relations based on observing the norms of international law and bilateral agreements. The republic will "develop relations based on a mutually profitable basis" with the other CIS states.

Birkavs said the Latvian Foreign Ministry will develop foreign trade guidelines for the republic within the next days. The document will define the regime of trade with various regions and states, need to open trade mission in these or those countries, principles of regional integration, etc.

Lithuania

President Explains Refusal To Attend Moscow Event

WS1204083595 Vilnius ELTA in English 1253 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 733]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, April 11, ELTA—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas stated during the meeting with Russian ambassador to Lithuania Nikolay Obertyshev that his refusal to attend the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the World War II in Moscow would not have negative effects on Lithuanian-Russian relations.

President Brazauskas received ambassador Obertyshev on his request.

During their meeting Lithuanian state leader explained the reasons that prompted his decision not to go to Moscow.

Moreover, Algirdas Brazauskas delivered a letter addressed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in which he made more exhaustive explanations of his refusal not to accept his invitation.

During the meeting the two officials also discussed certain issues on economic relations between Lithuania and Russia.

Besides other questions, they agreed upon the necessity of forming bilateral commission, which would speed up the solutions of the problems arising while implementing the agreement on granting favourable trade status to Lithuania.

The ambassador confirmed that the Russian Foreign Ministry did not reject the protest note received from the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry that Russian helicopters violated Lithuanian air space. The Ministry acknowledged the fault.

Russian Envoy Says Absence Will Not Hurt Ties

WS1204114795 Tallinn BNS in English 1217 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 12, BNS—The Lithuanian president's refusal to attend Moscow ceremonies marking the end of World War II in Europe will in no way affect the development of Lithuanian-Russian relations, the Russian ambassador to Lithuania said Tuesday.

Nikolay Obertyshev made the statement after his meeting with President Algirdas Brazauskas. The Lithuanian leader received the ambassador to present a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, explaining why he will not be present in Moscow.

Obertyshev told BNS after the meeting that Brazauskas' decision not to attend was taken "under very complicated circumstances." After weighing all pros and cons, the president "made a decision that had to be made in this case," the ambassador added.

In his opinion, the decision would have been different in other circumstances. "Of course, we would like very much to see President Brazauskas in Moscow and it would be hypocritical if we said the opposite," Obertyshev noted.

Other subjects on the meeting's agenda included the setting up of a joint Lithuanian-Russian commission for economic cooperation and a recent helicopter incident over Vilnius.

The ambassador confirmed that he and the president spoke about three Russian helicopters that flew over the Lithuanian capital at a low altitude on March 29. But, the ambassador said, Russia admits only "half of the fault."

Obertyshev said the helicopters flew at an altitude specified by Lithuanian air traffic controllers but had no right to go off course.

Brazauskas Criticizes Response to Russian Overflights

LD1104115995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1035 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, April 11 (Interfax)—The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry should have reacted faster and paid more attention to the flight of three Russian Air Force helicopters over residential areas of Vilnius on March 29, President Algirdas Brazauskas said in a Monday interview with local television.

He favored the tightening of rules of flying in the Lithuanian air space.

The president announced that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Transportation were given instructions to work out new rules of flying over Lithuanian territory because the provisional regulations introduced on July 1992 "are pretty outdated".

The helicopter crews received permission from the Foreign Ministry to fly across Lithuanian territory to Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. The permit stated the route, altitude and flight corridor.

However, according to the Lithuanian authorities, the helicopters deviated from the route and flew over the capital at a low altitude.

Proposal To Ban Russian Military Flights Rejected

WS1204113895 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 11, BNS—The Lithuanian parliament on Tuesday rejected the opposition's proposal to consider a resolution on Russian military flights in Lithuanian airspace.

Algirdas Gricius, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] faction decided Monday that such a resolution is not necessary.

Gricius, who is a member of the LDLP faction, told BNS that the essence of several drafts proposed by the opposition is to ban Russian military flights over Lithuania. The ruling faction disagrees with such measures and holds that Lithuania should prepare new airspace regulations and allow Russian flights on the basis of single permissions, he said.

Next week, the parliament's agenda will be drawn up by the opposition Democratic faction, which may propose consideration of the issue.

The opposition's initiative to ban Russian military flights came after an incident on March 19, when three Russian helicopters went off course and passed over several residential districts of Vilnius at a very low altitude. Russia later admitted that its pilots had violated safety regulations and promised to punish those responsible for the incident.

At a special parliament session last week, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys explained that permissions for Russian flights are issued in accordance with temporary airspace regulations approved back in 1992.

On Friday, the State Defense Council obliged several ministries to prepare new regulations concerning the use of Lithuanian airspace.